## STARS STRIPES.





DOD offers child care to all deployed troops

Yeardley Smith, voice of Simpson 'Simpsons' actor finds she can handle 'More'

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

# **Coalition orders inquiry into Baghdad checkpoint shooting**

U.S., Italy to investigate death of intel agent during hostage rescue

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# The Dutch are done in Iraq

Troops to return to Netherlands gradually as mission ends

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Dutch troops cede control to British forces in a formal ceremony Monday at their base in Samawa, Iraq, in the relatively peaceful province of Muthana, as the Dutch mission in Iraq came to an end Monday. The mission remains operational until Tuesday to allow Dutch troops to familiarize British forces with their work, and the British will assume responsibility for 550 Japanese troops formerly under Dutch command in the area.

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## Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Immigrant smuggling trial: Survivors of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt have said they pounded and screamed as they tried to let Tyrone Williams know they were drving inside his sweltering tractor-trailer.

Williams didn't let them out for four more hours as he transported them from South Texas in May 2003, prosecutors said. By then, 17 of the more than 70 lilegal immigrants inside had died from dehydration, hyperthermia and suffocation, including a 5-year-old boy. Two others died later.

Opening arguments were set for Tuesday in Williams' much-delayed trial.

Firebomb arrests: A man and two sisters were arrested in an attempted arson allegedly linked to an eco-terror group that targeted residential and commercial construction sites in California, authorities said Monday.

sites in California, authorities said Monday.

The Christmas Day incident was the first of three attempted or successful attacks on buildings under construction in towns east of Sacramento.

Arrested Monday was Jeremiah Colcleasure, 24, while Eva R. Holland, 25, and Lili M. Holland, 20, were arrested Friday. All live in Newcastle.

The three face conspiracy to commit arson, which carries a minimum 10-year and maximum 40-year sentence.

Beauty queen shooting: A jury was chosen Monday for the murder trial of a Savannah, Ga., beauty queen who fatally shot her two-timing boyfriend outside the other woman's house.

Sharron N. Redmond, 23, faces life in prison if convicted in the slaying of Kevin Shorter during a confrontation four months after Redmond was crowned Miss Savannah.

She has admitted firing the shot that killed Shorter, her boyfriend since high school, in December 2003. A key question for jurges will

question for jurors will be whether Redmond shot him in a jealous rage or in self-defense.

Opening statements were set for Tuesday.

Staten Island ferry crash: Minutes after the ferry Andrew J. Barberi slammed into a Staten Island pier, assistant captain Richard Smith took the blame, allegedly telling ferry supervisor Patrick Ryan, "I blacked out. It's all my fault. I killed all these people."

In the 17 months since the ship-shredding disaster claimed 11 lives, the National Transportation Safety Board has shifted its focus from Smith's conduct that day to Ryan's supposedly slack grip on the ferry operations.

The NTSB was set to issue its final report on the crash Tuesday, including recommendations for changes in ferry operations. The NTSB has documented how Smith got a doctor to issue him clean bills of health year after year despite Smith's dependence on a number of medications.

#### World

Philippines murder convictions: The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a petition by soldiers requesting a new trial over their convictions in the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

The 15 soldiers each are serving two life terms for the murder of Aquino, who was killed while in the custody of soldiers on Aug. 21, 1983, moments after he stepped off a plane bringing him home from exile in the United States.

The soldiers said a new witness and foren-



Toxic railroad leak: Used hazardous material safety gear and suits lie near an emptied rail tanker after it was pumped free of toxic waste Monday in Salt Lake City. The railroad tank car that leaked toxic fumes, forcing some 6,000 people from their homes, was not designed to hold the mixture of highly corresive acids with which it had been filled, the car's owner said Monday. Louic Connelos, spokesman for Kennecott Utah Copper, said the car was supposed to be used only for hauling sulfuric acid.

sic evidence would clear them.

However, the Supreme Court said the new witness merely corroborated the testimony of the defense witnesses during the trial and that the forensic experts' conclusions were also based on old evidence.

Munch art recovered: Police in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday were holding eight people on suspicion of theft after recovering three stolen works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch, including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress," officials said.

The artworks, valued at some \$257,000, were found less than 24 hours after thieves pried them loose Sunday night from the walls of a restaurant at the upscale Hotel Refnes, near the southern town of Moss, police said.

Officers received a tip that people were seen carrying paintings into an Oslo house. Their motive had not immediately been determined, and the condition of the works had not been assessed.

Asian bird flu: The World Health Organization says seven Vietnamese patients who initially tested negative for bird flu have been found to be carrying the virus after their samples were retested — suggesting that avian influenza may be more widespread than originally believed.

All seven, who were first tested in January, have since recovered, WHO regional spokesman Peter Cordingley said Tuesday. "There's no doubt. The WHO accepts that

we are missing cases. It's quite possible that some people are falling sick and their symptoms are very light and they don't end up in hospital," he said.

Madrid train bombings: Spanish police arrested a Moroccan on Tuesday described as a close collaborator of key figures in the Madrid train bombings officials said

The Interior Ministry identified him as 21-year-old Jaouad el Bouzrouti and said he was arrested near his home in Fuenlabrada, a Madrid suburb.

In a related story, an association representing victims of the bombings urged Spaniards on Tuesday to let them mourn quietly on the massacre's anniversary.

"We feel everybody is watching us. We can't cope with the lack of privacy to cry over our loved ones," said Pilar Manjon, president of the Association of Victims of March 11.

She spoke at a news conference that will be the group's only public event connected with Friday's anniversary of the March 11 attacks, which killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500.

British tsunami victim: Officials in Thailand have formally identified the body of British fashion photographer Simon Atlee, who was killed by the Asian tsunami while vacationing with his girlfriend, Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, an official said Tuesderical states of the super-

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office confirmed that the body of Atlee, 33, had been found and was identified on March 3. She said his family were aware and British officials were working on having the body repartiated.

Japan mad cow precautions: Anyone who visited Britain or France for a day or more between 1980 and 1996 will be banned from donating blood in Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the government tightens restrictions on blood supplies because of worries over the human form of mad cow disease.

over the furnal norm of mad cow disease.

The rule would bar hundreds of thousands of people from donating blood and may severely diminish blood supplies, media reports warned.

Kashmir bus service: Hundreds of Indian army engineers and workers are clearing land mines and repairing a dilapidated highway to meet the April 7 deadline for starting a historic bus service linking the Indianand Pakistani-controlled portions of Kashwite offsinickerid Montey.

mir, officials said Monday.

The bus service will greatly help poor divided families who now have to travel hundreds of miles to cross in the northern Indian border state of Punjab.

The highway is expected to be ready for use by April 1.

Mexico police trial: A Mexico City judge Monday ordered 19 federal, state and local police officers to stand trial in connection with the slayings of five people who were shot in the head and dumped outside the resort city of Cancun last November.

The group includes federal agents and the police officials assigned to the Cancun area, as well as municipal police employed directly by the resort's city government, according to a statement released by the federal attorney general's office.

They will face charges of "taking advantage of their position as public servants to tolerate and allow third parties to smuggle drugs," as well as transporting and dealing drugs themselves, corruption and organized

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

## **Coalition orders probe into Italian's death**

## Car's speed, possible warnings from U.S. soldiers at checkpoint have been questioned

a duty for the government to

demand that light be shed on

the murky issues.

By TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq ordered a follow-up investigation Tuesday into the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence officer as he accompanied a former hostage to Baghdad's airport last

Also Rulgaria demanded a U.S. investigation after one of its 460 soldiers in Iraq was killed Friday in what appeared to be a

friendly-fire incident. Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car carrying him and freed Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after Sgrena's release from a month in captivity

Sgrena, a fierce opponent of the war and a frequent critic of U.S. policy who works for the communist newspaper II Manifesto, was recovering Tuesday in a Rome hospital from a shrappel wound to the shoulder.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi "expressed the satisfaction of the Italian government for this investigation," his office said.

The United States has said soldiers at a Baghdad checkpoint "attempted to warn the driver to stop by hand and arm signals, flashing white lights, and firing warning shots in front of the car." "When the driver didn't stop, the sol-

diers shot into the engine block which stopped the vehicle, killing one and wounding two others," it said.

But Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini told his

parliament Tuesday Rome that the car was not speeding and was not or-dered to stop by U.S. troops at a check-

point. However, he also dismissed allegations that

the shooting on Friday that killed Calipari was an ambush - a claim made by Sgrena. "It was an accident," Fini told lawmak-

ers. "This does not prevent, in fact it makes it a duty for the government to demand that light be shed on the murky issues, that responsibilities be pinpointed, and, where found, that the culprits be punished."

The White House has described the shooting as a "horrific accident" and promised a full investigation.

On Tuesday, the Multi-National Force-Iraq said a team led by U.S. Brig. Gen. Peter Vangjel will carry out an investigation into the incident

The follow-on investi-44 It was an accident. ... This does gation to the Multi-Nationnot prevent, in fact it makes it al Division — Baghdad commander's initial. inquiry into the inc dent is expected to take ap-Gianfranco Fini proximately

Italian foreign minister three to four weeks to complete," the statement said, "The command is working closely with the U.S. Embassy and Italian officials have been invited to

participate.' In addition to ordering investigations into Friday's fatal incidents involving Italian and Bulgarian allies in Iraq, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq has asked

for a review of any accidents involving U.S. checkpoints in Iraq going back to fall 2004.

"I have asked my subordinate commander to look at all checkpoint accounts from last six months, to see what we can draw from that," George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tues-

day.
"Obviously the timing [of the two incidents] gave me cause for discomfort," Casey said when asked for his reaction to the death by suspected friendly fire of a Bulgarian soldier, which happened almost at the same time as the Baghdad airport

checkpoint incident.

checkpoint incident.
"We've had two incidents in a short period of time," Casey said.
Therefore, "it's prudent" for U.S. officials to analyze checkpoint rules of engagement and procedures and modify them if necessary, to "make sure I don't have fur-ther problems in the future." he said.

Bulgaria's defense minister said the death would not lead to a troop withdrawal. The nation must decide this month whether to keep troops in Iraq past July.

Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess and AF reporter Alessandra Rizzo contributed to this report.

## Gunman shoot Iraqi minister in Baghdad

BY TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Gunmen assassi nated the deputy chief of the Interior Ministry's immigration of-Gen. Ghazi Mohammed Issa in Baghdad on Tuesday, in a drive-by shooting that al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility for in an Internet statement. The claim could not be veri-

Volleys of automatic weap-ons-fire erupted in central Baghdad near a main hotel housing foreign journalists. It was not immediately known what sparked the violence Also on Tuesday U.S. troops and insurgents clashed in Rama-

di. 70 miles west of Baghdad. At least two Iragis were killed and two others wounded, said Dr. Salah al-Ani of Ramadi's main hospital

The clashes lasted for more than an hour. City shops were closed and streets were deserted as U.S. troops took up sniper positions on rooftops. At least one body was in the street, witnesses said U.S. troops launched a clamp-

down in Ramadi and several other Euphrates cities on Feb. 20, imposing curfews and raiding houses in a bid to root out insurgents operating in the area.

In the capital, unidentified gun-men also killed the deputy head of Hay Alfurat Hospital in western Baghdad, officials said. The Interior Ministry official

said gunmen also attacked a convoy of trucks carrying food for the Trade Ministry in Salman Pak, southeast of the capital. Three civilians were killed in the assault and at least one truck was

night killed two men they identified as terrorists who launched an attack in Ad Duia, about 30 miles northwest of the capital. Six people were detained by U.S. forces.

Tuesday's violence came a day after insurgents killed 33 people and wounded dozens in a series of

The terror group Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zar-qawi, claimed responsibility for much of Monday's bloodshed including violence that killed 15 people in and around Bagouba. 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Amid the violence, negotiations to form Iraq's first democratically elected government have persisted. Iraqi Kurds said they were close to a deal with the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance to secure many of their territorial demands and ensure the country's secular character after its ational Assembly convenes March 16

The dominant Shiite Muslim alliance, however, said although it agreed that Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani would become Iraq's president, it was still talking about other conditions set by the Kurds to gain their support in the

275-member legislative body. The Shiite alliance controls 140 seats and need the 75 seats won by the Kurds in the Jan. 30 elections to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to elect a president and later seat their choice for prime minister, Ibrahim

An alliance official said interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, whose party won 40 seats, refused an offer for a Cabinet post. Allawi's office could not be

reached for comment.



To celebrate International Women's Day, Iraqi women attend a rally Tuesday in Baghdad. They called for women's liberation, a secular Iraq without Islamic government and the end of the U.S. occupation.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Monday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,145 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador,

Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,036

deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers The latest deaths reported by the military

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the mili-

■ No identifications reported.

## **U.S.** may abandon Abu Ghraib prison site

## Facility the target of insurgent attacks

BY RAWYA RAGEH The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Incessant attacks against Baghdad's notorious Abu Ghraib prison may force the U.S. military to return the fa cility to Iraq's government and take their own high-security inmates to a safer place, a U.S. military official said

As the United States mulls a plan to pull out of the facility, located on the outskirts of the capital, U.S. military figures show that a crackdown against insurgents before and after the Jan. 30 landmark parliamentary election has bloated Irag's prison system

to the breaking point. "The reason we would like to move our operations from Abu Ghraib is that it has been regularly targeted with attacks from in surgents. The new facility would be within the larger Baghdad International Airport complex, making it less susceptible to attacks," Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a spokesman for Iraq Detention Operations, told The Associated Press.

Abu Ghraib became infamous

unfolded there after the publication last April of photographs showing naked, terrified Iraqi prisoners being mistreated and humiliated by U.S. military guards.

Plans for moving the prison, however, are not yet final, Johnson said. The military, he added, will continue to operate the facility "for the foreseeable future.

Johnson said prisoners at Abu Ghraib were divided into two groups "security detainees" under American control, and common Iraqi criminals under the control of the Iraqi judicial sys-

Abu Ghraib is a 280-acre facility, a jumble of top-security buildings and minimum- risk tent cities, located along a dusty highway west of the city. The facility has come under re-

peated attack from insurgents. In April, a barrage of 28 mortars rounds killed 22 prisoners and injured 91.

"I would anticipate the Iragis would continue to use it as a civil prison, not for security detainees, a prison under the ministry of juscriminals," he said.

"Most likely, they'll just take over the whole complex Although the number of detain-

ees at Abu Ghraib has surged above its original capacity, it re-mains "manageable," Johnson said, explaining that security and not overcrowding was the main reason the military was thinking about moving the facility

Abu Ghraib and one other "the ater-level" facility have become overcrowded, according to figures provided by the U.S. military over the weekend. There are three such facilities in Iraq: the other two are Camp Bucca near the southern city of Umm Qasr and Camp Cropper at the airport complex

At 3,200 inmates, Abu Ghraib has already surpassed the 2,500 people it was designed to incarcerate. Camp Bucca has 5,750 detainees, 550 more than its capaci-ty. Camp Cropper, which holds 110 high-profile detainees, including former dictator Saddam Hussein, is the only prison that is not yet overpopulated.



Detainees gather on May 10, 2004, for a head count in an outdoor detention center in Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad. Incessant attacks against the prison may force the U.S. military to return the facility to Irag's government and move high-security prisoners to a safer place, a U.S. military official said Monday.

The military has been refurbishing Camp Bucca for several months and new compounds are likely to be used at the facility by the end of March.

There have been at least three

major outbreaks of violence at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca, the most recent on Jan. 31 when U.S. guards fired on prisoners during a riot at Camp Bucca, killing four detainees and injuring six others.

## Abuse charges upheld

FORT HOOD, Texas - A military judge Monday re-fused to dismiss any of the charges against Spc. Sabrina Harman, an Army prison guard accused of humiliating

Harman — who appears giving a thumbs-up next to an Iraqi corpse in one of the most notorious photos from the Baghdad prison - could become the second person to stand trial in the scandal when her court-martial begins May 12.

27-year-old reservist from Lorton, Va., is accused of writing "rapeist" on the leg of one prisoner and forcing another to stand on a box with wires in his hands and telling him he would be electrocuted if he fell

#### **Detainees released**

PARIS - The last three French detainees held at the U.S. military base in Guantana mo Bay, Cuba, returned to France on Monday and were detained by authorities, judi-cial officials said.

The detainees -- Mustaq Ali Patel, Ridouane Khalid and Khaled Ben Mustafa — were being held by the French counterterrorism agency known as DST, the officials said on the condition of anonymity.

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed the transfer but declined to give details, citing operational and security considerations.

The men were among seven French citizens captured in the U.S.-led campaign that toppled Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban regime in late 2001. They spent more than two years at Guantanamo. From The Associated Press

## Gonzales defends transfer of detainees

BY R. JEFFREY SMITH The Washington Post Iraqis held at Abu Ghraib.

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Alberto Gonzales this week defended the practice of "extraordinary rendition," the process under which the United States sometimes transfers detainees in the war on terrorism to other nations where they may undergo harsh interrogation, trial or imprisonment.

The government has not said how many detainees have been transferred and has not articulated the precise legal basis for the practice, but the persistence of such transfers has been demonstrated by frequent flights of a plane the intelligence community uses to

U.S. officials have privately described the threat of rendition as a powerful tool in prying loose information from suspects who fear torture by foreign countries. But Gonzales, speaking to re-

transport the prisoners.

porters at the Justice Department Monday, said that U.S. policy is not to send detainees "to countries where we believe or we know that they're going to be tortured."

That represents a slight modification of his congressional testimony in January that rendi-



a history of torture, Washington seeks additional assurances that it will not be used against the transferred detainee. At the same time, he said, the administration "can't fully control" what other nations

do, according to accounts of his remarks by wire services. He added that he does not know whether countries have always complied with their promises

Gonzales, who was sworn in on Feb. 14, also said he is awaiting a report by subordinates on the issue of detainee abuse by U.S. personnel and did not wish to comment on allegations of CIA involvement in detainee abuse

## 2 reservists face punishment in detainees' deaths

BY ELISE ACKERMAN Knight Ridder Newspapers

PALO ALTO, Calif. - More than four months after a criminal investigation implicated 28 U.S. soldiers and reservists in the heatings and deaths of two Afghan detainees, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against only two low-ranking reservists.

According to information re-cently released at Fort Bliss in Texas, Pfc. Willie Brand of the 377th Military Police Company, based in Cincinnati, was charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of a detainee named Dilawar, whose body was found Dec. 10, 2002, in an isolation cell used for interrogations at Bagram Air Base. Brand also has been charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, maiming, mal-treatment and false swearing, meaning lying under oath.

MP Company, Sgt. James P. Boland, was charged on Aug. 23, 2004, with assault, maltreatment and dereliction of duty in Dilawar's death and with dereliction of duty in the death of a detainee named Habibullah on Dec. 3.

Army pathologists classified both deaths as homicides and noted that both men had sustained blunt-force injuries to their legs. Army investigators also found that the men had been chained to the ceiling for prolonged periods.

The Department of Defense has acknowledged the deaths of eight detainees in Afghanistan.

The investigations into the deaths of Dilawar and Habibullah were finished in October 2004.

In February, the Army an-nounced that Mai, Gen. Michael

al of Fort Bliss, would decide which of the 28 soldiers identified by criminal investigators would receive trial by courts-martial or

administrative punishment. Jean Offutt, a spokeswoman for

Fort Bliss, said a preliminary hearing on the charges against Brand was scheduled for later in March and that a hearing on the charges against Boland had been delayed at the request of his attorney. After the hearings, Vane will decide whether to proceed with courts-martial

Offutt said no other form of discipline had been decided on for any of the other soldiers said to be involved in the deaths, including six interrogators from the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Two of the interrogators believed to be involved in the Bagram deaths later were sent to disciplined for allegedly mistreating a female detainee at Abu Ghraib, the Iraqi prison that was the focus of a notorious abuse scandal last year.

In August, an Army investigation recommended that action be taken against Capt. Carolyn Wood, who oversaw interrogators at Abu Ghraib and Bagram.
The investigation found that in

Iraq Wood had "failed to implement the necessary checks and balances to prevent detainee abuse" and criticized her for not ensuring that her soldiers were properly trained in interrogation

Wood hasn't been disciplined for her role in any abuse in the Afghan prison or the Iraqi prison. Any legal situation regarding her has not yet been resolved, said Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman based at the



Dutch troops, left and center, cede control to British forces, right, in a formal ceremony at their base in Samawah in the relatively peaceful province of Muthana, as the Dutch mission in Iraq comes to an end Monday. The mission remains operational until Tuesday to allow Dutch troops to familiarize British forces with their work and the British will assume responsibility for 550 Japanese forces formerly under Dutch command in the area

## **Dutch conclude** mission in Iraq

The Dutch mission in Iraq formally ended Monday, as troops in the south ceded command to the British

The Netherlands sent a force of 1,400 troops to the relatively peaceful province of Muthana as part of the U.S.-led coalition. Two Dutch soldiers were killed in ambushes during their 20-month mission, which began in August 2003, shortly after President Bush declared an end to major combat operations

The Dutch government decided last year to end the mission this month despite requests from Washington and London to remain longer.

British forces also will assume responsibility for 550 Japanese forces formerly under Dutch command in the area.

"As a force we wanted to show very clearly that we were among the Iraqi people, not against them, and we were successful at that," said Gen. Dick Berliin in an address to departing Dutch troops, "We're leaving, but we're leaving as friends.

Although the Dutch handed over formal command on Monday, the actual withdrawal will be gradual, army spokeswoman Gwendolyn Rahusen said.

A new detachment of 350 Dutch soldiers arrived last month to begin breaking down the camp, and some soldiers have already begun returning to the Netherlands. The mission remains operational until Tuesday to allow Dutch troops to familiarize British forces with their work.

The bulk of the troops are to re-turn home between March 15-21 and the last by April 30, which is the Netherlands' national holiday. In addition to providing securi-

ty in the region, the Dutch trained more than 3,000 Iraqi police dur-

Because of troop rotations, 7,000 Dutch soldiers served in Iraq altogether.

## General: U.S. troop level in Iraq to remain steady

By LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - U.S. troop levels in Iraq will remain steady at about 135,000 troops for "the next several months," according to the top U.S. military leader in Iraq.

Once the last of the units held over for Iraqi elections returns home at the end of March, "I don't necessarily anticipate [troop levels] changing much for the next several months," Army Gen. George W. Casev Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

"We're in a good position following the (January) elections, but we have a lot of work ahead to get to

our final objective in Iraq," Casey said.
"We're actually further along than I thought we'd
be at this point," Casey said. "The level of violence, the level of attacks (against coalition forces), have dropped off significantly."

In fact, he said, "last week [marked] the lowest level (of attacks) since April."

However, Casey said he was "not ready to say" that the elections marked a "tipping point" that will spell a rapid end to the insurgency.

Despite progress in capturing many bombmakers and other foes of coalition forces and the new Iraqi government, "We are (still) dealing with an insurgency that has sufficient weapons, ammunition and people to maintain attacks (at the level of) 50 or 60 per day in the Sunni area," Casey said. "We've

Even though attacks against U.S. forces have dropped, attacks continue against Iraqis, in particular the fledgling Iraqi security forces, which are losing members to suicide bombers and other insur-

gent weapons almost daily. The insurgents are "clearly going after Iraqi security forc-es more, that's kind of a steady

thing," Casey said. The election gave the Iraqi people a much-needed psychological boost, Casey said, leaving Iraqi civilians less vulnera-

ble to the demoralizing effect of daily bloodshed. "For every one attack, two and a half are ineffective," Casey said, "So you get a lot of

noise. Before the election, that noise really affected the people, because they had a perception of insecurity," he said. "After the elec-

tion, [it's] not having the same effect." But stabilizing Iraq is an effort that could take many more years. Casey said, although he did not specifically say that U.S. troops would be required

for the duration. "Defeating insurgency takes time," Casey said. The average counterinsurgency in the 20th century took nine years."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

## Program extends free-flight service to troops' families

pay in airfare.

Fisher House spokesman

Jim Weiskopf

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Strines

A partnership of organizations that doles out free airline tickets to servicemembers and families broadened who is eligible to participate and where they may fly ast month, the nonprofit Fish-

er House Foundation, which has partnered with Department Veterans Af of fairs, several airline companies "Operation and Hero Miles," start ed flying families VA medical to treatment facili-

bedside of troops recuperating from wounds sustained in Iraq, Afsurrounding areas.

House spokesman Jim Weiskopf said.

About 2.300 airline tickets have een distributed to troops and families, saving recipients about \$2.3 million, Weiskopf said. "Every time we give away tickets, we're saving the families about \$1,000

they don't have to pay in airfare."
U.S. Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, D-Md., started "Oper-ation Hero Miles." in November 2003 as a way for troops to collect free tickets when traveling on the two-week Rest and Recuperation leave from the Middle East. Busi-

and people donate frequent flyer miles to the program so troops don't have to pay the airfares to get home.

The program linked with Fisher House Foundation, which began distributing donated miles to families so they could visit troops at U.S. military medical

treatment facilities. 44 Every time we Now it grown so military

give away men and women can use the donat-ed tickets to fly tickets, we're savina the home to be with their families, or families about have family fly to wherever they are \$1,000 theu recuperating. With R&R don't have to

flights fully funded by the military. miles donated to "Operation Hero Miles" pay primarily for families' trips to hospitals,

Heather Moeder Molino, Ruppersberger's spokeswoman. "And there is a huge need for that," she said. Servicemembers make the ini-

tial requests for tickets, which are forwarded to the Fisher House Foundation by the social work staff or family assistance centers at the medical centers. Requests also can come from service casualty offices.

Information is available on the Internet at: www.fisherhouse.org or www.heromiles.org.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at:

### Troops try to help ill yet

LOMA LINDA, Calif. - Thousands of Marines have volunteered to be tested to determine if they could be a potential bone marrow donor for a Marine who developed a life-threatening liver ailment after returning from Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu was listed in fair condition Sunday at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he has been hospitalized since January, a hospital spokeswoman said.

LeBleu, of Lake Charles, La., received an emergency liver transplant but now his body is not producing enough red blood cells; doctors say he may need a bone marrow transplant.

"He's a fighter and he's fighting even harder today," said his wife. Melany LeBleu.

### Hospital honors nurse

EL PASO. Texas - The intenive care unit at Beaumont Army Medical Center has been named in honor of an Army nurse who died in Iraq a year ago.

U.S. Army Capt. Gussie Mae Jones worked in the unit for a year before she was deployed to Iraq Jones 41 died last March of a pulmonary embolism while serving as a surgical nurse in Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Joan Lancaster, Jones' supervisor at Beaumont, said her professionalism and empathy made her an ideal critical care nurse.

There was a compassion and kindness that never seemed to end," Lancaster said at Monday's dedication ceremony and memorial service

About 20 people sold food and collected donations to pay for a portrait of Jones that was unveiled during the Monday ceremo-

From The Associated Press

## Patriot missile crews heading to exercise in Israel

Germany-based troops expected to participate in Juniper Cobra

BY STEVE MRAZ

U.S. Patriot missile crews stationed in Germany are once again headed to Israel to participate in a

joint exercise with the Israeli military.
The exercise, called Juniper Cobra, is set to begin
Thursday and continue until mid-April. Its purpose
is to develop and improve air defense cooperation
between the two nations, said Connie Summers, a
spokswoman for the U.S. Army's V Corps in Heidelherr. Germant.

Roughly 1,000 U.S. troops will participate in the computer-assisted and limited live-fire exercise, with Army soldiers making up the majority of the

Of the total U.S. force, about 500 soldiers with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade based at Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany and the brigade's two Patriot battalions will take part in the exercise. The brigade's Patriot battalions are the 5th Battalion, 7th ADA in Hanau, and the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA headquartered in Ansbach.

The remaining U.S. force, both active-duty and reserve, is composed of Navy and various communications and logistics support elements from the States and Europe, Summers said.

While the timing of the exercise comes amid increasing tension in the Middle East, Army officials said Tuesday that the missile exercise had been planned for a year.

"There is absolutely no connection with this exercise and any event in the region," Summers said. "As always, we are interested in implementing lessons learned from training exercises."

The deployment of the crews and their missiles is partly a signal to others in the Middle East but largely a reassurance to the Israelis, said Michael Desch, a political science professor at The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

"The symbolic thing is this signals the American commitment to Israeli security," he said

As recently as January 2003, Patriot missile crews were deployed to Israel for the Juniper Cobra exercise. At that point, troops and materials were being deployed steadily to the Middle East in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldier bled to death

Also, Juniper Cobra took place in February 2001,

which coincided with an Israeli prime minister election and continuing strife between Israelis and Palestinians.

In both instances, Army officials said the exercise



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Nigel Gomez, left, and Pvt. David Brickhouse answer questions last September about a Patriot Missle Launching Station at the U.S. Army Europe Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

had been planned a year in advance and was not prompted by the developing situations.

he Bush School of at Texas A&M Uniat Texas A&M Uni1998 for exercises. But shortly after arriving, the United States conducted Operation Desert Fox, which re-

sulted in three days of strikes against Iraq sparked by tensions over U.N. weapons inspections. The Patriot missile debut-

Grange Summers

Gonnie Summers

Army spokeswoman

high-speed missile was originally designed to strike down iets but was modified to intercent unfriendly

Its success in the Gulf War made the missile a household name in America.

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mrazs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## Airman's body found

connection with this

exercise and any event

in the region, 77

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — A 22- year-old Fort Drum soldier found dead in her apartment Christmas Day, along with her 11-day-old baby, bled to death as the result of postnatal complications, according to an autopsy. Spc. Tameka McFarquhar, a native Jamaican who immigrated to Brooklyn, died from loss of

who immigrated to brooklyh, thed from loss of blood from placenta retained after the birth of her daughter, Danasia Elizabeth, the Jefferson County Medical Examiner ruled.

A report on the baby's death is not yet complete, but authorities believe McFarquhar died first and the infant likely died from hunger.

McFarquhar, a human resources specialist, gave birth Dec. 14 and was discharged the next day. Friends and family told authorities they last saw and spoke with her Dec. 19.

Placenta increta occurs when the placenta attaches itself too deeply in the uterine wall and must be surgically removed. It occurs in about 1 in 2,500 pregnancies. SAN ANGELO, Texas — Authorities have recovered the body of a missing Dyess Air Force Base airman from a stock tank on a West Texas ranch, his stepsister said.

Staff Sgt. Michael Leslie Severance's body was found in 10 to 20 feet of water in a tank 15 miles northeast of San Angelo, Nicole Leighton said Monday. His body had been weighted with cinderblocks, and his death was ruled a homicide.

Severance, 24, had been missing since Jan. 15. He lived in San Angelo but was assigned to Dyess in Abilene, about 90 miles to the northeast.

Six divers searched about four hours before finding the badly decomposed body, officials said. The Tom Green County Sheriff's Office took the body to the Medical Examiner's Office in Lubbock for positive identification.

From The Associated Press

# Program offers child care for all deployed troops

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — For the first time, a new Defense Department initiative gives all mobilized or deployed military parents access to government-subsidized, high-quality child care — including members of the reserve components, who until now have been excluded from DOD's on-base programs.

Operation Military Child Care

is funded by the Defense Department, and administered by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, or NACCRRA, a Washington-based network of more than

or NACCRRA, a Washington-based network of more than 850 child-care resource and referral centers nationwide. Participants will receive refer-

rals to licensed community child care providers and get discounts of up to 25 percent.

The exact amount of the subsidy will be based on family income, as well as the average cost of child care in that area [see box].

Operation Military Child Care, which kicked off Thursday, is also available to the families of deployed active-duty members who are wait-listed for child care at their home base.

"But the goal is to reach out to people especially if they're not on a base, such as reservists and the National Guard," said NACCRRA spokeswoman Katherine Chamberlain.

Reserve component members, in particular, often have problems finding and paying for child care during deployments, Chamberlain said in a Monday telephone interview.

Reserve family incomes may nose-dive when the spouse left at home requires more child care than usual, and sometimes a working spouse may even be forced to give up her job because child care is so expensive, "especially in big cities," Chamberlain said. "In New York [City, if a

"In New York [City, if a spouse] is making \$30,000 per year, child care can be up to 50 percent of that salary," Chamberlain said.

"By setting up quality child care at a discounted rate," Operation Military Child Care can "significantly reduce" such burdens, she said.

To ensure the same standards as providers in DOD's on-post Child Development Centers, the program will subsidize only licensed, legally operating community-based child-care programs and providers. Chamberlain said.

Families can request a preferred state-accredited and licensed child-care provider or program, or NACCRRA will provide a list of referrals. Military families who live near installations may also be referred to an on-post child-care program, if 44 The goal is to reach out to people especially

if they're not on a base, such as reservists and the National Guard. ??

Katherine Chamberlain NACCRRA spokeswoman

## **Getting help**

Who is eligible?
Families and child guardians of reserve component servicemembers who are mobilized or deployed in support of the global war on terror, and geographically dispersed active-duty servicemembers of deployed servicemembers who are unable to access child care on their military installa-

How long will my family be eligible to participate in the program?

As long as you, as parent or guardian, are mobilized or deployed

What do I need to provide to establish eligibility for the program?

Copies of orders, birth certificates, and the social security number of your children; the name and contact information for any preferred, licensed child care program or provider; proof of income (pay stub or tax return); and a signed cony of the amplication

copy of the application.

How long does the application process take?

NACCRRA will process the

application in one to five business days after receipt. Where can I go for more in-

formation or an application?

Go to www.naccrra.org or call the Child Care Aware hot line (800) 424-2246; or the Army One Source (804) Source outside the United States, dial the access code to reach a U.S. number, then (800) 464-8107. The number for hearing-impaired callers (800) 364-9188. In Spanish, (888) 732-9020.

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

there is space available.

Operation Military Child Care officials are hoping to attract at least 6,000 participants, Chamberlain said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

## IN THE STATES

#### **Bullet analysis off**

WASHINGTON — An FBI crime lab technique used for decades to match bullets to crimes — and relied on by prosecutors in hundreds of criminal trials — is based on "erroneous scientific foundations," a New Jersey appeals court has ruled.

In a decision Monday overturning a 1997 murder conviction, the court said Michael S. Behn deserves a new trial because expert testimony based on the FBI technique was central to his convic-

The ruling is believed to be the first to overturn a conviction based on a challenge to the FBI analysis of the lead content of bullets since the National Academy of Sciences last year raised new questions about the technique.

## Disease unit opens

OMAHA, Neb. — The nation's largest medical unit for victims of highly lethal infectious diseases such as smallpox, anthrax and the plague opened in Nebraska

on Monday
The Nebraska Medical Center's 10-bed containment wing
has a separate ventilation system
alarms to indicate escaping air, a
sterilizer for items leaving the
wing and a shower for its volunteer staff to make sure contagious
diseases are kept inside.

There are only two other There are only two other ties in the country — a two-bed suite run by the Army's infectious diseases institute at Fort Detrick, Md., and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's two-bed unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

#### Terror suspects' guns

WASHINGTON — More than 40 terror suspects on federal watch lists were allowed to buy firearms in the United States last year because background checks found no reason to stop them, says a government report released Tuesday.

The GAO recommended that the attorney general clarify procedures to ensure that information from gun purchase background checks is shared with counterer-rorism officials and that the FBI should either monitor such checks more frequently or oversee all checks related to terror see all checks related to terror

The report showed that from Feb. 3 through June 20, 2004, 35 known or suspected terrorists purchased guns in the United States. From July 1 to Oct. 31 last year, 12 more suspected or known terrorists were allowed to buy firearms.

#### Death row review

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Texas to conduct new hearings for 51 Mexicans on death row who say they were denied legal help from their consulates in violation of international law.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last year ruled that the convictions violated the 1963 Vienna Convention by not providing the Mexicans with consular access. In 1969, the Senate ratified the treaty, which requires such access for Americans detained abroad and foreigners arrested in the United States.

## **Clinton to have heart-related surgery**

## Office says doctors will remove fluid and scar tissue from his left chest

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton, who underwent quadruple bypass surgery in September, will undergo a medical procedure this week to remove fluid and scar tissue from his left chest, his office announced Tuesday.

The procedure will take place Thursday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. Clinton is expected to remain in the hospital for three to 10 days, his office said in a statement.

Clinton was proceeding with his schedule in Washington on Tuesday. He smiled and waved to reporters as he entered the State Department for meetings, but did not make any comment. He planned to be at a White House event later in the day, according to his spokesman. Jim Kennedy.

The procedure, known as a decortication, will remove scar tissue that has developed as a result of fluid buildup and inflammation,

causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung, his office said. The surgery will be done either through a small incision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between ribs.

Clinton's problem is a relatively rare complication of his surgery, where inflammation of the lining of the heart develops and fluid builds around it or in the lungs, said Dr. John LaRosa, president of the State University of

Larosa, pressuem of the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn. It doesn't signal anything ominous about the former president's outlook, he said. "It is unusual" for it to develop so long after the operation, said Dr. Valentin Furster, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in

New York and a former American Heart Association president.

Chinton's office said: "The fluid buildup and lung collapse has caused the president some discomfort in recent weeks, but he has otherwise been in very good condition, recently passed a stress test and is walking up to four miles a day." The statement said Clinton is expected to resume his work without limitations.

Clinton, 58, had been quite active since his sept. 6 heart surgery in New York, presiding over the opening of his presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., and, more recently, joining the first President Bush for a public relations campaign to help raise private funds for the victims of the Asian tsunami.

Clinton underwent quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery last fall after suffering chest pains and shortness of breath.

In bypass surgery, doctors remove one or more blood vessels from elsewhere in the body and attach them to arteries serving the heart, detouring blood around blockages. The vessel typically comes from elsewhere in the chest, although doctors sometimes take one

from an arm, a leg or the stomach.

Clinton previously blamed his blockage in part on genetics but also said he "may have done some damage in those years when I was too careless about what I ate."

PROFILE

### Experienced public servant

Ambassador to the United Nations nominee John R. Bolton, 56, has held numerous federal public servant positions since 1981.

Education – Bachelor's degree, Yale University, 1970; law degree, Yale Law School, 1974

Federal service – Undersecretary of state 2001-present, assistant secretary. Department of State, 1989-93, assistant attorney general, Department of Justice, 1985-89, assistant administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1982-83; general counsel, USAID, 1981-82



## Bolton's confirmation hearings for U.N. job expected to be rough

BY LIZ SIDOTI The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's pick of a vocal U.N. critic to be the next U.S. ambassador to the world body was meant to send a message that change is needed there, the White House said Tues-

Now undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, John R. Bolton was anounced Monday as Bush's choice for the post. He is likely to face a tough Senate confirmation hearing before Democrats who argue that he has disdained the world body and Republicans who are wary of him.

But White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bolton is the right man for the job at a time when the Bush administration is looking for reforms at the

"The president believes that there is more that needs to be done to make sure that it is an organization that is effective and an organization that is toffilling its mandate," he said. "There are some areas where it can do much better." Atop that list, McClellan said, is making sure "that when resolutions are passed, that the Security Council means what it says."

"John Bolton is someone who is dedicated to positive reforms at the United Nations," McClellan said. "He is a tough-minded diplomat, someone who is committed to achieving results."

Confirmation hearings are expected next month.

The appointment comes at a crucial time: U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is going forward with plans to reform the world body, and U.S. opinion of the United Nations, particularly in Congress, is at a low.

In 2001, 43 Democratic senators opposed Bolton's nomination for his current post. He was con-

firmed anyway.

During his tenure, Bolton has rankled lawmakers with his tough foreign policy talk. However, on Monday, he promised to work closely with Congress to advance Bush's policies. "Working closely with others is essential to ensure a safer world," he added.

If confirmed, Bolton, 56, would succeed former Sen. John Dan-

# Bush: Democracy is key to defeating world terrorism

BY TERENCE HUNT The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing hopeful signs from Lebanon to Afghanistan, President Bush said Tuesday that democracy is beginning to spread across the Middle East and that authoritarian rule is "the last gasp of a discredited past."

Bush demanded anew that Syria pull its troops out of Lebanon and allow free elections. "All Syrian military forces and intelligence personnel must withdraw before the Lebanese elections for these elections to be free and fair."

be free and fair.

"Freedom will prevail in Lebanon," Bush declared in a
speech at the National Defense
University, a center for professional military education. "The
American people are on your

Bush's speech was described as an update on the war on terrorism, a struggle that he linked with repressive conditions in the Middle East that he said give rise to extremism.

"The advance of hope in the Middle East requires new thining in the region," the president said. "By now it should be clear that authoritarian rule is not the wave of the future. It is the last gasp of a discredited past."

Bush said the entire world

has "an urgent interest in the progress and hope and freedom in the broader Middle East."

"Our duty is now clear," he said. "For the sake of our long-term security, all free nations must stand with the forces of democracy and justice that have begun to transform the Middle East."

He said that spreading democracy in the Middle East was essential to winning the war on ter-



President Bush tells an audience at the National Defense University in Washington on Tuesday that spreading democracy in the Middle East was essential to winning the war on terrorism.

rorism. He said prospects for democracy "have seemed frozen in place for decades. Yet at last, clearly and suddenly, the thaw has begun."

Bush's speech on terrorism

Bush's speech on terrorism marked a return to the trademark theme of his successful re-election campaign.

After the election, Bush turned his focus to an uphill batturned his focus to an uphill battle to radically redesign the Social Security program by offering personal investment accounts, a step that would be accompanied by a reduction in future hencefor.

ture benefits.
While more than half of Americans oppose his Social Security overhaul, a solid majority approve of his handling of the terrorism fight.

## Wife: Mauled man tried to reason with chimps

SAN FRANCISCO - A man who was severely mauled by two chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary last week was quickly overwhelmed when the apes attacked, his wife said Monday

"One was at his head, one was at his foot But all that time ... he was trying to reason with them," a sobbing LaDonna Davis told ABC's "Good Morning America." "I couldn't do anything.

Davis, 64, and her husband, St. James Davis, were visiting Animal Haven Ranch near Bakersfield on Thursday when two male chimps escaped their enclosure and attacked the couple

"When we made eye contact, the charge was on," LaDonna Davis said. "There was

**44** Right now what they (doctors) are trying to do is keep his breathing constant. That's all they can tell me, but I told him that

he can't leave me. He has to be strong.

no stopping anything, and the big chimp came around from behind me and pushed me into my husband. The male came around from behind and chomped off my thumb. ... My husband must have realized we were in deep trouble because he pushed me backward. At that time, they both went for him.

St. James Davis, 62, lost all the fingers

from both hands, an eye, part of his nose, cheek lins and part of his buttocks in the ferocious attack, his wife said over the week-

end on NBC's "Today Show." She also said one of his feet was mutilated. A Kern County Sheriff's commander also said his genitals were mauled.

St. James Davis was being treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, 'minute by minute," his wife said Monday

"Right now what they are trying to do is keep his breathing constant." she said. 'That's all they can tell me, but I told him that he can't leave me. He has to be strong

The Davises were visiting the sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of Moe — a 39-year-old chimpanzee who was taken from their home in West Covina, a Los Angeles suburb, after biting off part of a woman's finger in 1999.

Authorities were continuing to investigate how the two chimps, named Ollie and Buddy, got loose. Both were shot and killed during the attack. Test results released Monday showed the two chimps didn't have rabies.

## Students stressed as SATs put more stress on writing

BY REBECCA TROUNSON Los Angeles Times

Writing, Audrianna Galvin says forthrightly, has never been her strong suit.

So the teenager was more than a little anxious when makers of the SAT college entrance exam announced in 2002 that a revised version of the test would, for the first time include a handwritten

"The whole idea of the writing section just really freaked me out," said Audrianna, 16, a junior at the private Buckley School in Los Angeles. "I thought, 'How on earth could I do that?"

Now, with the new, longer SAT and its fear-inducing writing section - about to make its debut, Audrianna says she is feeling somewhat better. She has gained some confidence from hours spent on preparation, in classes and on her own. "But I'm still pretty nervous," she admits.

Other college-bound students are stressed over high-stakes test. They're filling test prep classes in record numhers, mainly, they say, to practice for the essay. For the exam itself, they will have 25 minutes to write, clearly and persuasively, on such broad philosophical topics as "Do people need to keep secrets or is secrecy harmful?

Some students also seem loath

new SAT. Enrollments for its ini-tial offering, on March 12, are significantly lower than those for the essay-less test last March.

Officials with the College Board, which owns the exam. said the 11 percent dip in registration is similar to a drop in March 1994 when an earlier revision of the test was introduced.

But many counselors and other experts are urging students - and parents - to keep calm. They point out that the essay, the sub ject of most of the nervous chatter surrounding the new test, will count for only about one-ninth of a student's overall score.

They all need to take a deep breath and relax," said Jennifer Karan, director of SAT and ACT programs for Kaplan Test Prep.

Along with the essay, the revamped SAT will feature more advanced math problems, new kinds of grammar questions and an expanded reading comprehension section. Two sections, verbal analogies and quantitative comparisons, have been eliminated. The total time for the test will jump from three to nearly four hours, the highest possible score from 1600 to 2400 and the cost from \$29.50 to \$41.50

About 2.3 million students take the exam each year, with many enduring it more than once to try to improve their scores



byees of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. applaud as Martha Stewart addresses them during a meeting in New York on Monday.

## Stewart aims to fashion a more emotional message for her fans

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO The Associated Press

NEW YORK - A beaming Martha Stewart told several hundred employees that the lessons she learned from a cross-section of people she met during five months in federal prison will be reflected in her company.

Stewart said on her first day back at work Monday that Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. has focused too much in the past on technical aspects of entertaining and cooking, and not enough on why people need to take care of each other.

"We're going to deepen our bond with the millions who read our publications and watch our television programs," Stewart said.

"We're going to engage and inspire new readers and new viewers for whom these topics may have seemed alien, unfamiliar or even - believe it or not - superfi-

cial?

As if to confirm her new down-to-earth image, Stewart pulled out a much-photographed poncho she wore when released from prison, saying it did not come from a fancy store, but was crocheted by a fellow inmate.

Whether or not Stewart has emerged from prison a changed woman may not matter as far as her company goes, observers said. They said the new strategy is brilliant for turning around Stewart's multimedia empire.

of losses and sales declines since news surfaced in June 2002 about her questionable stock sale.

"Her prison experience can be used as a new and powerful brand asset," said John Barker, president of DZP Marketing Communications, based in New York. What prison has done is to make her more fallible. There is this opportunity to make Martha more approachable, more empathetic.

Barker said Martha Stewart Living previously focused on functional benefits in its editorial content, but has become more aware of the "emotional power of the brand."

Stewart's prison experience

has made her "start to understand the real struggles that peo-ple have in their lives," he said.

## Man charged after helping terminally ill friend commit suicide

BY CARA RUBINSKY

The Associated Press

CORNWALL, Conn. - Any of the dozen friends caring for John T. Welles could have been there the morning that the 66-year-old decided to take his life.

Welles a fiercely independent former Marine and inventor, had not seen a doctor in decades and did not know he had prostate cancer until three weeks before killing himself on June 11, 2004.

Those caring for him said he

Now, 74-year-old Huntington

Williams is charged with manslaughter for helping fulfill his dving friend's wish

The case has galvanized residents in Connecticut's bucolic northwest corner, even though legalizing physician-assisted suicide doesn't seem on the horizon.

'Hunt just happened to be there at the time. I don't think anybody would have wanted to trade places with him," said Cornwall official Gordon Ridgway.

If convicted, Williams faces up to 10 years in prison. He was next expected in court on Friday. Though there are no statistics

on assisted suicide, the issue has sparked a legal debate nationally. In the past five years, people in Michigan, Maryland, South Carolina Wisconsin and Rhode Island have been charged with helping friends or relatives kill them-

In Oregon, the only state where doctor-assisted suicide is legal, 171 terminally ill people have

died after taking lethal doses of medication. The Bush administration has challenged the law, which has so far been upheld by federal courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the case.

The morning Welles died, Williams relieved a friend who had spent the night with the dving

"John needs to do this. Are you able to do this with him?" the friend asked Williams, according to an affidavit.

Williams, a volunteer emergency medical technician and retired high school teacher, had watched his wife. Rebecca, die of ovarian cancer a decade ago. He said that he could "honor John's wishes. He cleaned Welles' .38-caliber

revolver and carried it outside. Smoking a pipe and leaning on a walker. Welles headed to the

front yard. The men shook hands and Will-

iams walked down the driveway. Before Williams could say "God bless," he heard a gunshot.

# Calif. lawmakers may put lid on high-speed chases

## Other states boost penalty

BY DON THOMPSON

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — On any given day somewhere in California, a television station helicopter flies low with its camera trained on a speeding car that pinballs through freeway traffic with police cars in hot pursuit.

It's a staple of television news and police procedure that is increasingly ending in death and serious injuries

According to the California Highway Patrol, the number of chases grew from 5,895 in 2001 to 7,171 in 2003, the last three-year period for which statistics are expelledly.

Fifty-one people died as a result of these pursuits in 2003; 18 of the dead were not involved in the pursuit, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Texas had 33 pursuit deaths in 2003, including nine innocents; North Carolina had 23 deaths, eight of them uninvolved motorists, and Florida had 21 deaths, just one of an innocent motorist.

Florida and Mississippi last year enacted laws boosting penalties for fleeing drivers, similar to what California law enforcement groups are proposing this year as

## Police chases risky

More than 1,000 suspects and bystanders were killed in police chases in California since 1982, an average of 49.3 each year from 1982 to 2003

#### Police pursuit injuries in California



Suspects Public Police

California	33		18	51		
Texas	24		9	33		
I. Carolina	15	8	23			
Florida	20		21			
Arizona	11	6 1	7			
	•					

SOURCES: National Highway Traffic AP Safety Administration; Calif, Highway Patrol

the Legislature attempts to deal with the issue.

A bipartisan group of legislators is pushing a proposal that would include penalties for police who recklessly pursue drivers.

"I want something that is actually going to save lives," said state Sen. Sam Aanestad, who sponsored a failed bill last year that would have limited police immunity in accidents from high-speed chases. "Probably the worst way to catch someone is by chasing them."

Law enforcement will adamantly oppose stripping away officers' legal immunity, said California State Sheriff's Association Legislative Director Nick Warner and California Police Chiefs Association President Bill Brown.

Since 1987, police have had what a state appeals court in 2002 termed a "get-out-of-liability-free" law even if police violate their own department's pursuit policy.

"We have been challenged by the court of appeals: 'You, Legislature, go back and fix this,' 's said Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, who is teaming with Aanestad in a reform effort.

But Brown, the police chief in Lompoc the last 10 years, said ending police immunity would "pass the liability on to the police and ultimately to the taxpayer, rather than to the individual who is really responsible."

It also would encourage suspects to flee, Brown said.

Aanestad is naming his bill after 15-year-old Kriste Priano of Chico, who was killed in 2002 when her family's minivan was struck by an unlicensed 15-year-old who was fleeing police after taking her mother's car without permission.

The victim's mother, Candy Priano, argues that there was no need for a pursuit because police knew where the driver lived.



Tamya Jones, left, Jackie Noehner, and Bonnie Zaiko, right, students in a forensic science program at Nerbasak Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Neb., discuss forensic evidence in the BTK serial murders in their class on March 3. Even with charges filed in the notorious BTK serial murders, students in college classrooms across the country continue to use the case as a learning tool.

## BTK arrest invigorates college forensics courses

BY SCOTT BAUER
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nothing puts an end to theorizing about a suspect quite like an arrest, but even with charges filed in the BTK serial murders in Kansas, college students across the country continue to use the case as a learning tool.

In forensic sciences and related courses, already popular because of TV shows such as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "Law & Order," the BTK case has energized students like nothing else, professors say.

For more than three decades

the BTK case has been inspected and dissected by police trying to solve the grisly killings. Over the years, criminal justice students have searched for clues investigators may have missed.

Students studying the case at

Gorgia State University in Atlanta were free to be imaginative about what type of person BTK might be because so little was known, said Volkan Topalli, an assistant professor in the criminal justice department.

"I would say that 80 percent of the students come up with the lazy answer, which is he's a sicko," Topalli said.

Police arrested BTK suspect Dennis Rader, 60, on Feb. 25 and charged him with 10 killings in the Wichita area since 1974. The killer, whose nickname stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill," resurfaced about a year ago with letters to the media and police after 25 years of silence.

Rader lived in a suburb of

Wichita, Kan., and has a wife and

two children. He once led a Cub Scout troop and was active in his Lutheran church.

As part of the master's level forensics science program at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, students have studied the BTK case all year, developing profiles of the suspect and examining the crime scenes.

The fact that Rader is married and has children does not fit the profile that student Jackie Hoehner developed about the BTK suspect. Hoehner had theorized that the suspect would be divorced or never married.

Hoehner and three other students in Nebraska Wesleyan's program made a presentation recently to classmates detailing the known crime scenes and publicly released evidence.

The students in Hoehner's

course have primarily studied unsolved cases, or cases in which considerable doubt has been raised about whether the person blamed for the crime is guilty.

Not all the theories about the BTK killer discussed in the serial nurder class at Mansfield University match the suspect, said Kylee Witmer, 21, a junior majoring in criminal justice.

"Someone thought that he was a sadist, which we have not found whether or not that's true yet," Witmer said. "There were a lot of theories."

Students at Nebraska Wesleyan predicted BTK would be average looking and would not stand out in a crowd, an attribute Hoehner said fits Rader. She said they also came close to guessing his education level and the type of job he would have

## School plans concert for oldest stone

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison is throwing a rock concert to celebrate the world's oldest stone.

A piece of zirconium silicate some 4.4 billion years old and no bigger than a grain of sand will appear on stage next month with the New York band Jazz Passengers, who will use rocks as percussion instruments and recordings of rock strikes on a synthesizer keyboard.

Joe Skulan, director of the UW-Madison Geology Museum, said the event is meant not just to teach people more about the stone on loan from Australian researchers, but to groove to the idea that the stone is so old.

The stone was found in western Australia by professor Simon A. Wilde of the Curtin University of Technology in Perth, and it has piqued the interest of scientists who say it suggests the Earth's surface may have cooled much earlier than once thought.

Skulan said so far 150 people are to attend the

free event April 9 at the Grand Hall of Memorial Union.

#### Horse that played Seabiscuit dies

LEXINGTON, Ky. — I Two Step Too, one of 10 horses that portrayed Seabiscuit in the 2003 movie about the famed thoroughbred, died Monday at the Kentucky Horse Park. He was 11.

I Two Step Too was euthanized because of a tumor in his nasal cavity, according to a release from the Horse Park. He had undergone surgery in December to remove the tumor, but it regenerated itself.

The horse was buried at one of the cemeteries at the Horse Park, where he'd lived since July 2003.

"This horse was not only very popular with our visitors, but was greatly loved by everyone who worked with him," said John Nicholson, the Horse Park's executive director. "The only good thing about this is that we will continue to see him every time the movie is shown."

From The Associated Press

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## Kosovo PM resigns after U.N. indictment

## Haradinaj stands accused of war crimes

The Associated Press

Serbia-Montenegro — Kosovo's prime minister resigned Tuesday and said he would surrender to the U.N. court which has indicted him for alleged war crimes, but insisted he

Ramush Haradinaj said he would leave Wednesday for The Hague, Netherlands, where the tribunal is based.

"Today I have been called upon to make a sacrifice, something I never believed would happen," he said in a statement. "This means also cooperation with international justice, however unjust it is.'

Proclaiming his innocence, Haradinai said his actions as an ethnic Albanian rebel commander during the 1989-99 war against Serb forces were consistent with international law

"I have behaved like an honorable man," he said

Kosovo still seethes with ethnic

end of the 1998-99 war between Serbs and ethnic Albanians, and the decision to charge Haradinai raised concerns of renewed violence. U.N. police and NATO troops were put on alert, but no incidents were reported by late

International officials appeared relieved that Haradinaj — a sea-soned battlefield commander with a fiery temper and a loyal follow-- had decided to cooperate.

Expressing his thanks to Haradinaj for resigning and going to The Hague voluntarily, Philip Goldberg, the U.S. representative to Kosovo, said full cooperation with the war crimes court is "test of a society's commitment to the rule of law."

Gen. Yves de Kermabon, the head of NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo, warned ethnic Albanians against succumbing to "the temptation of anger," saying his forces - bolstered by an additional 1,000 troops flown in over the order prevailed.

Praise also came from an unusual quarter, with Serbia-Montenegro Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic describing Haradinaj's decision as "a responsible act." He called for "maximum restraint" by both ethnic Albanians and Serbs

The ethnic Albanian majority considers Haradinaj a hero in the struggle for independence from Serb rule. But most of the Serb minority hate him and other past leaders of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army that fought former Yu-President Slobodan goslav Milosevic's Serb forces.

Milosevic himself is being tried by the tribunal for his alleged part atrocities in Kosovo and other Balkan wars. That trial, and the fact that most of those who have answered to the court have been Serbs, have embittered Serbs, who accuse the tribunal of bias.

They were likely to see Haradinaj's indictment as at least partial-



Kosovo's Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj holds his U.N. war crimes indictment and resignation speech before stepping down from his position Tuesday in Pristina.

ly righting such perceived injus-

Kosovo is now being administered by the United Nations, but IIN officials are believed to favor ultimate independence for the province, which is formally still part of Serbia-Montenegro

secretary-general, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, urged Haradinaj to cooperate for the good

"I am confident that Ramush Haradinaj will, as he has announced, meet his obligations," he said in a statement



Club of Madrid Secretary-General Kim Campbell and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former president of Brazil, talk Tuesday following the opening of the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, held in Madrid, Spain.

## Nations told to work together to beat terror

BY ED MCCULLOUGH

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain - A former Brazilian president opened a glo-bal summit on terrorism Tuesday, telling delegates that nations must communicate with one another as effectively as they do with their own people if the world is to defeat the terrorist menace.

Former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appealed to experts and government leaders at-tending a four-day conference to recognize that "terrorism is a phenomenon that doesn't respect national boundaries.

"It is clear that we need to establish a much larger level of in-ternational collaboration in order to anticipate terrorism," he said.

Cardoso's pointed remarks underlined one of the more intractable issues in combatting terrorism: many nations are reluctant to share intelligence data that could lead to the capture of terrorists with anyone but their closest allies, partly out of fear of jeopardizing the sources of the data

Finding a way to share informa-tion — while at the same time buttressing democratic principles will be a common theme for panel-ists from about 50 countries who began meeting in closed sessi Tuesday. The experts will polish policy recommendations they've working on for about six months and present them Friday.

"We don't want to fall into (the trap) ... that the end justifies the means," Cardoso said, arguing that foregoing civil rights and liberties to end terrorism would be destructive.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales will represent Presi-dent Bush, and Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator for the Palestin-ian Authority, also was expected.

## Militants refuse to speak in Jordanian court hearing

AMMAN, Jordan - Fifteen alleged militants refused to speak Monday when a military court asked them to plead to numerous terror charges, including plotting to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Amman.

The court interpreted their silence as a plea of not guilty and adjourned the trial to March 14. An additional person accused is being tried in absentia on

The charge sheet identified the chief defendant as Abed al-Tahawi, 50, and said he pursued the ideology of "takfiri" — a policy of killing anybody considered to be an infidel. The charge sheet said al-Tahawi recruited his accomplices while preaching in mosques in Irbid, 50 miles north of the capi-

The defendants planned to attack the U.S. and Is-raeli embassies in Amman, and a hotel favored by Israeli tourists in Irbid, the charge sheet said. They also planned to attack the home of the director of an annual cultural festival and American performers at the festival, according to the charges

Details released Monday did not say how or when they planned the attacks.

The alleged militants were detained in August and September before they could carry out their plans. It was not disclosed how they were arrested.

In a separate trial in the same military court, a defendant pleaded not guilty Monday to planting a

bomb that killed two passers-by in 2002.

Mustafa Siyam was convicted in absentia in 2003 and condemned to death for setting a bomb under the car of the wife of a senior Jordanian intelligence officer outside his home in Amman in February 2002.

Siyam was later captured in Iraq and extradited to Jordan. Under Jordanian law, people convicted in absentia are granted a retrial if they are later arrest-

Siyam said Monday that the confession he made while in detention was extracted under duress

## Europe marks International Women's Day

The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France - European leaders marked International Women's Day Tuesday by calling for equal working rights for women and agreeing to set up a gender institute that will combat sex discrimination.

The institute, which should open by 2007 and have an annual budget of about of gender equality and ensure that it's part of all EU policies, said European Commission chairman Jose Manuel

"Women must have easy access to work and be properly paid," Barroso said in his remarks at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, "It's a question of mind-sets. Mentalities evolve, women's issues must be enhanced. It is crucial to increase the employment rate of

"Every day, thousands of women are victims of discrimination on grounds of gender,' added European Parliament Pres-ident Josep Borrell. "They still suffer from psychological, physical and economic violence.

A recent EU report found that, while job discrimination and education gaps were narrowing, men earn on average about 15 percent more than women in the 25-nation bloc

In Paris French President Jacques Chirac announced that government will present a draft law within days on workplace equality between men and women.

"No labor accord will be reached unless negotiations have also touched on the means to achieve wage equality between women and men, in no more than five years," Chirac said.

If the future law is not respect-

ed, companies could face sanctions, officials close to the president said.

According to figures from France's National Institute of Sta-tistic and Economic Studies, women earn 22 percent less than men for the same work.

## Thousands supporting Syria stage Beirut rally

BY TANALEE SMITH

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — About half a million pro-Syrian protesters crowded a central Beirut square Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shite Muslim Hezbollah group to demonstrate against U.S.-led intervention and counter weeks of massive anti-Syrian rallies.

Loudspeakers blared catchy but forceful songs of resistance and nationalist speeches. The masses intermittently burst into singing the national anthem, hoisting Lebanon's red and white cedar-tree flag.

Two huge vertical banners at the front of the square read, in English: "Thank you Syria" and "No to foreign interference," a reference to American, French and United Nations pressure to get Syrian troops out of the country. Syria, faced with incessant international pressure and raging Lebanese opposition, amounced Monday it would pull its troops to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 3i, and then laiter to the Syrian President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Barnile Lahoud did not give a time line for full withdrawal, nor did it say whether Syrian intelligence would also leave, a key demand of the Lebanese opposition.

There were scattered movements of Syrian troops late Monday and Tuesday on the roads in the central mountains.

A Syrian official in Damascus who did not want to be named said Tuesday that Syrian intelligence agents in Lebanon would be pulled back along with the regular army. Syrian intelligence agents have been the source of resentment for many and their departure is a demand of the Lebanese opposition and the United States.

nese opposition and the United States.

In a show of force to counter the anti-Syr-



Hundreds of thousands pro-Syrian protesters gather in a central square in Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shi

ian protests, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah declared to the rousing, cheering crowd: "I ask our partners in the country or those looking at us from abroad, 'Are all those hundreds of thousands of people puppets?' Is all this crowd agents for the Syrians and intelligence agencies?' " There were no independent estimates of the crowds, but at least 500,000 people crowded the square and nearby streets.

At least one opposition leader said the pro-Syrian government pressured people to turn out and some reports said Syria had bused in people from across the border.

## U.S. expert testifies about al-Qaida interrogations

BY DAVID RISING

HAMBURG, Germany — A U.S. investigator Tuesday testifed in the retrial of a Moroccan accused of aiding the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers that Osama bin Laden personally approved the plot against the United States two years before the attacks.

The testimony by Dietrich

Snell, a New York deputy attorney general, was based on the Sept. 11 Commission's report to the U.S. Congress, which he worked on.

The report said the three Hamburg-based suicide pilots were recruited by bin Laden and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, an al-Qaida leader in U.S. custody and alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. The Hamburg state court called Snell as a witness in the case of Mounir el Motassader to find out more about the intervogations of Mohammed and Ramai Binalshibh, the Hamburg cell's suspected contact with al-Qaida. The court has beard summaries of the questioning of Binalshib and Mohammed, but has repetately asked the United States for more details.

Judge Ernst-Rainer Schudt asked Snell if he knew whether torture was used in the interrogations, which would make the evidence inadmissible at the Hamburg trial. Snell said he didn't

Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, is being retried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on charges he provided logistical support for suicide pilots Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

He was convicted in 2003 on those charges and sentenced to the maximum 15 years.

But an appeals court threw out the conviction last year, ruling he was unfairly denied testimony by key al-Qaida suspects in U.S. custody, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Binalshibh.



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### Bosnian officials to welcome Iranian president

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami was due in the Bosnian capital on Tuesday for a three-day official visit where he was to meet the country's top officials and strengthen ties between the two countries.

Khatami will, in addition to meeting the Bosnian three-member presidency, the prime minister and other politicians, meet with local Muslim leaders and with the Inter-religious council, where Bosnia's other main religions — Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish — are represented. During the 1992-95 Bosnian war between Bosniak Muslims, Orthodox

dox Serbs and Catholic Croats, Iran was one of the leading supporters of the Bosniak side. Since the end of the war Iran has financially supported the reconstruction and revitalization of Bosnia, especially in the Bosniak-run part of the country.

## Fatal fire brings prison troubles to light

HIGUEY, Dominican Republic — A prison fire that killed 134 inmates, one of the deadliest in Latin American prisons, has cast a harsh spotlight on conditions in this country's cells. The Dominican Republic has the most overcrowded jails in the West-

ern Hemisphere, according to U.N. figures, and the fire early Monday in the eastern city of Higuey happened at one of its worst.

The cellblock where the blaze broke out was said to be so packed, in-

The cellblock where the blaze broke out was said to be so packed, inmates were sleeping on top of toilets. To make matters worse, the inmates had guns and knives and easy access to drugs, another notorious feature of prisons here.

Officials gave varying numbers for the overall population of the prison. But there appeared to be at least 178 inmates in the block, which had a maximum canacity of 25.

The government ordered an investigation of the fire, which began during a fight among inmates over who would control their drug trade.

#### Prince Rainier hospitalized for chest infection

MONACO — For the second time in less than six months, Prince Rainier III of Monaco has been hospitalized with a chest infection. Rainier, 81, was admitted Monday to the same clinic where he was

treated for a chest infection in October, his palace said Tuesday. His condition had improved Tuesday but he was expected to remain hospitalized for a few more days.

From The Associated Press

## Saddam's arms dealer awaits fate in Chile



Entrepreneur Carlos Cardoen offers a sample of the homemade liquor line he is developing called Espiritus de Colchagua. It is made by marinating natural herbs, fruit or seeds in "agua ardiente." a strong liquor distilled from grapes.

## Cardoen refuses to face charges in U.S., turns to making wine

BY TYLER BRIDGES Knight Ridder Newspapers

SANTA CRUZ, Chile - Carlos Cardoen

smiled, swished the sour cherry liqueur in his goblet and downed it in one swallow. He used to be known as one of the

world's most notorious merchants of death, a "black widow spider" who made cluster bombs for Saddam Hussein during the Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s. He even hung Saddam's portrait in a place of honor in a Santiago factory.

Now, however, Cardoen is making wine

and fine liqueur in Chile's Colchagua Valley, hoping it will become a popular destination someday for wine lovers worldwide. Still wanted in the United States on weanons charges, Cardoen said he'd given up arms dealing in favor of promoting tourism and the grape.

"We're trying to produce enough attractions so we can have the equivalent of the Napa Valley," Cardoen said as he showed off plans for his winery, which is already harvesting grapes even before he com-pletes it. "This is where I have my heart. This is where I have my soul."

The charges still pending against him in Miami are unfair, he said, and prevent him from seeking treatment in the United States for recently diagnosed colon cancer. "I have suffered 15 years of being ha-

rassed by the United States without a trial," Cardoen said, his sunny perspective briefly turning dark. "It is 99 percent political. It was my bad luck he became the guy he became.

The "he" is Saddam, who proved to be Cardoen's most receptive customer while Iraq fought Iran.

Cardoen manufactured cluster bombs, which contained hundreds of tiny bomblets in one big bomb that shredded everything over a wide area. This weapon was effective for Saddam because it reduced the need for his relatively unskilled air force to precisely target Iran's troops.

In all, Cardoen sold 29,000 cluster ombs to Iraq, generating anywhere from \$200 million to \$400 million in sales, according to news accounts at the time.

The business came to a shuddering stop in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait, a Western ally, and Chile honored the embargo against Iraq. By then, Cardoen was building a plant in Iraq to produce fuses for bombs, rockets and artillery shells.

"Saddam owes me \$50 million." Cardoen

said. "He was totally misinformed about the surrounding world. He made such stu-

pid decisions, such as invading Kuwait."
In 1993, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami indicted Cardoen on charges that he imported zirconium from the United States for use in manufacturing cluster bombs when he'd said he'd use the metal for mining.

The case has never advanced. Cardoen has refused to go to the United States to be tried, and U.S. authorities can't extradite him from Chile.

He's turned his attention to transforming the Colchagua Valley, which is 2½ hours southwest of Santiago, the capital. He built the area's finest hotel, which he recently doubled in size to 85 rooms, and an adjoining museum that houses everything from his collection of pre-Columbian jewelry to his 14 antique vehicles and the 50-milon-year-old jaw of a giant shark.

The weapons charges dog him, however. Last year, he was forced to sell the Tara-paca winery in Chile after U.S. distributors learned of his past activities and stopped buying his wine.

The new winery, Vina Santa Cruz, will export to Europe, he said. In recent years, Chile's wines have become favorites around the world.

### Woman, 104, faces deportation from Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia - A 104-year-old Chinese woman faces deportation from Australia after a government tribunal on Tuesday rejected her final appeal for a permanent visa.

Cui Yu Hu arrived in the southern city of Melbourne to visit family in 1995 on a 12-month tourist visa but no airline would take her back to China because she was too old and frail. She remained in Australia illegally for another four years before applying for an aged parent visa that would allow her to stay permanently. But Hu was ineligible for that visa because she had overstayed her initial 12-month visa.

Family friend Rose Bei said Hu had no home in China or family there to care for her. "They don't want (her) to go back to China because nobody can care and look after her." Bei told ABC radio.

#### Swastika etched on icy lake removed

BERLIN - Berlin police have cleared a large swastika traced into a snow-covered lake after being alerted by pilots who saw the Nazi symbol as they flew into one of the city's international airports, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.

The swastika, up to 25 feet wide, appeared to have been etched into the icy Schaefersee lake on the eastern approach to Tegel Airport on Monday by someone using their feet, spokesman Thomas Piotrowski said. Several pilots saw the symbol — outlawed in Germany lice quickly cleared it with snow shovels. Piotrowski said

#### Store fined for selling beettle-laden cereal

HONG KONG - A Hong Kong grocery store was fined 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (about \$641) after selling a jar of breakfast cereal infested with hundreds of tiny beetles, company executives said Tuesday.

A local magistrates' court was told earlier that the customer, Philip Dykes, found 575 beetles in the plastic jar he bought from the Great food store in 2003. Dykes reportedly said that the breakfast cereal was "too organic for my liking.

The company's lawyer argued that the insects must have found their way into the jar before the lid was sealed by the manufacturer in Ire-land. Great's spokeswoman Teresa Pang said "the minute grain beetles found in the jar are commonly found in Europe.

### Nagasaki told to pay for funeral of bomb survivor

- A Japanese court ordered a city government to pay for the funeral of a South Korean man who survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, a ruling that could help other atomic bomb victims abroad get compensation.

Choi Kye-chul returned to Busan, South Korea, after the Aug. 9, 1945, bombing. When he died last July, his wife asked Nagasaki city to help pay for the funeral, but her request was denied because her husband was not in Japan at the time of his death.

On Tuesday, Nagasaki District Court spokesman Michiharu Kawasaki said the city had been ordered to pick up the cost.

A-bomb survivors officially recognized by the government are eligi-ble for state health care and other benefits, including monthly allowances of up to 140,000 yen (about \$1,260) and free medical checkups From The Associated Pres

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## Infection, not murder, may have done Tut in

By PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The results of a CT scan done on King Tut's nummy indicate the boy king was not murdered, but may have suffered a badly broken leg short-ly before his death at age 19 — a wound that could have become infected, Egypt's top archaeologist said Tuesday.

Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, announced the results of the CT scan about two months after it was performed on Tut's

mummy.

Hawass said the remains of Tutankhamun, who ruled about 3,300 years ago, showed no signs that he had been murdered — dispelling a mystery that has long

surrounded the pharaoh's death.
"In answer to theories that Tuankhamun was murdered, the team found no evidence for a blow to the back of the head, and no other indication of foul play," according to a statement released by Hawass' office.

"They also found it extremely unlikely that he suffered an accident in which he crushed his

Hawass said some members of the Egyptian-led research team, which included two Italian experts and one from Switzerland, interpreted a fracture to Tut's left thighbone as evidence that the king may have broken his leg

badly just before he died.

"Although the break itself would not have been life-threatening, infection might have set in, the statement said. "However, this part of the team believes it also possible, although less likely, that this fracture was caused by the embalmers."

Some 1,700 images were taken of Tut's mummy during the 15-minute CT scan aimed at answering many of the mysteries that shrouded his life and death — including his royal lineage, his exact age at the time of his death and the reason he died.

"I believe these results will close the case of Tutankhamun, and the king will not need to be examined again." Hawass said.

"We should now leave him at rest. I am proud that this work was done, and done well, by a

completely Egyptian team."
Tutankhamun's short life has
fascinated people since his tomb
was discovered in 1922 in the fabled Valley of the Kings in the
southern Egyptian city of Luxor
by a British archaeologist,
Howard Carter.



SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANTIQUITIES/AF
Zahi Hawass, Egypt's top archaeologist, said Tuesday that results of
CT scan on King Tut's murmmy
indicate he was not murdered, but
may have suffered a badly broken
leg shorthy before his death.

## Britain readies for Diana: the ballet

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — As Prince Charles prepares for his midlife second marriage, the glamour, tragedy and soap opera of his first are bursting back into life — in dance

"Diana the Princess," a ballet by Danish choreographer Peter Schaufuss, opens Tuesday at Manchester's Palace Theatre, almost 200 miles from Buckingham Palace. But it has already created a buzz among royal-watchers.

British newspapers have gleefully suggested that the show savages the royal family while canonting Princess Diana, who died in a car crash in Paris in 1997. The Daily Telegraph reported that the piece, which premiered in Denmark in 2003 but has never been performed in Britain, portrays the royals as "openmouthed fools" and Charles' longtime love Camilla Parker Bowles as "a dominatrix in jodhpurs laying into the Prince of Wales with a whip."

Diana and her companion, Dodi al Fayed, "are portrayed as saintly figures martyred by the British establishment," the paper

Schaufuss, a former artistic director of the English National Ballet who gave the princess dance

lessons in the 1980s, says the show is not an attack on Charles—who has set an April 8 date to marry Parker Bowles in a low-key civil ceremony—or on other members of the royal familiary.

"The show should be seen as a celebration," Schaufuss said in an interview a few days before the opening. "It's a very tasteful show, and I think if anybody is critical of it without seeing it, that's very unfair.

"Of course it is a tragedy," he added. "It started out as a modern fairy tale and sadly it ended the way it did. But I don't think there are any villains — just circumstances."

Set to music by English composer Edward Elgar and '80s goth-pop band The Cure, the piece follows the young princess through her troubled marriage to the heir to the throne and up to her early death. The soundtrack includes extracts from the 1995 television interview in which Diana acknowledged her affair with former soldier James going relationship with Parker Bowles: "There were three of us in this marriage."

English dancer Zara Deakin who, to the delight of amateur psychologists in the media, is also Schaufuss' wife — plays Diana.

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#### **CCB** has a history

New badge? All for it!

This whole idea was copied from the Germans in World War II. They awarded it to infantrymen and all combat/combat support military occupational specialties that we have today; artillery, engineers and the like.

The new name is even a direct translation of the German award, called then the Nahkampfabzeichen, which translates directly

to "Close Combat Badge Respect to all the truck drivers who seem to get a lot of special attention during convoy duty by insurgents, but sorry, you shouldn't get it. Like my dad said in the Korean War, "Our cooks carry rifles, but they

don't get CIBs. Aviators? We should get (as in World War II) a "combat aviator designator," as well. Back then, it was a piece of aviation blue wool sewn on the dress tunic, and your wings were pinned over it. It showed everyone that you were flying combat missions The Air Medal is normally the aviators' "I was there" medal. I won the Air Medal with "V" device for flying direct combat mis-sions. However, I watched an awards ceremony and saw an overweight specialist who also got an Air Medal for riding in the back seat of an OH-58 to go pick up a gearbox in Saudi Arabia. Fair? No.

This is my point Combat arms soldiers and otherwise nonrecognized troopers (cavalry scouts, etc.), and, on a case-by-case basis civil affairs guys, if they are attached to a fighting element that does not get the Combat Infantryman Badge should get the new badge, 'Nuff said!

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Calhoun Schweinfurt, Germany

### Craving 'chest candy' crummy

I'm an infantry soldier and I've read a bunch of letters in the past few weeks about the new Close Combat Radge

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or hase and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

It proves that if you whine about something long enough, someone up top will bend to your wishes. Next thing you know we'll have a combat admin badge, a combat cook badge, a combat commo badge, a combat legal badge, a combat military police badge, a combat air traffic controller badge, a combat mortuary affairs badge and a combat military intelligence badge

People this is nathetic I don't know one person in my military occupational specialty who joined the Army to get badges. If all you people want is chest candy, then get out and join the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

How many of you people have performed medical tasks in combat? I have. Do I deserve the Combat Medical Badge? Absolutely not. But according to logic coming from all the people who want a new badge. I deserve it. I probably just started something new, now everyone will want CMBs, too.

To the people who think a new badge is an incentive for retention: Come on I don't

want a soldier to re-enlist because he got a new cool-guy badge. I want a soldier to re-enlist because it's right for him and he feels he can benefit the Army. If you want a paper soldier, fine, Just please keep them out of the infantry; we don't need them.

Bottom line is, if you want a Combat Infantryman Badge, join the infantry or Special tryman Badge, join the infantry or special Forces. If you want a CMB, join the medical corps; if you want the CCB, join those MOSs. Just quit complaining; you're going to make the combat badges we have worthless and there are a lot more important things to express opinions about while in combat.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Brophy Bagram, Afghanistan

### You can have his badge

In response to those who have written about the Close Combat Badge, I ask: Why did you deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan? Did you just deploy to earn a badge to sew on My father ran recon with Military Assis-

tance Command Vietnam, which was recently declassified. For anyone who knows anything about MACV, I do not have to explain who they are and what they did in Vietnam or the surrounding area. I have never heard my father complain

about not receiving a badge or an award from his tour in Vietnam. All I heard my father say was that it was a blessing to have survived Vietnam, reunite with his wife, raise three children, and to have served his country honorably.

Is a badge that important for you to have? If a Close Combat Badge is that important to you, you can come to Fort Hood, Texas, and I will gladly give you mine. I'll even pay for the sewing. I am more thankful to have extended a hand of selfless service to the people of Iraq and to be alive, than to complain about who gets what award for whatever they did or did not do in a combat zone. Sgt. Nicholas J. Varney

Camp New York, Kuwait

## Give Lebanon back to the Lebanese

hen 34-year-old Bashar Assad became president of Syria in 2000 after the death of longtime dictator Hafez Assad, two schools of thought quickly emerged: The son was either the new Mafia don of Syria, or, as one story put it, he was "a modern young man who would like to bring his country into the Internet era and fight corrup-

From the evidence to date, the callow Assad chose to adopt his father's brass-knuckled style to become the Michael Corleone of Syria.

But if he still harbors even the smallest impulse of reform, now is his chance to prove it.

Last month's assassination of former Leb anese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a foe of

Syria, has aroused a tide of revulsion among

the people of Lebanon against Syria and its occupation of their country — whether or not Syria was responsible. Assad's tepid offer to move his 14,000 troops in Lebanon closer to the Syrian border and eventually out of the country is too little, too late.

There is no justification for this occupation of a neighboring country that has a right to be free of the oppressive foreign presence. As if to underline how unacceptable Syria's role in Lebanon has become, both France and the United States - how's that for an unlikely alliance? - have joined hands to urge "the immediate withdrawal of all Syrian military and intelligence forces from Lebanon."

Given the fragile political balance inside Lebanon - Hezbollah, a sworn enemy of Israel, is the largest party in Parliament - a precipitous Syrian pullout is not in anyone's interest. But a promise to leave by a time certain in the near future would help to restore political balance in the region.

Change will not be easy. At the moment, Lebanon does not have the resources to extend its authority over its entire territory

If the Syrian forces were to leave, Western countries - most prominently, France - should be prepared to provide security assistance to ensure stability until the Lebanese can do the job

Assad must surely be aware that a new current is running through the Middle East. It's not only the Lebanese marching in the streets of Beirut by the thousands who re-ject terrorists and their sponsors.

It's not too late for Assad himself to change. Western countries can bring pressure to bear if he doesn't, or - should he rethey can extend the sort trade-and-aid benefits that typically are denied to dictators. Perhaps Assad would recognize that as an offer he can't refuse.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury







## OPINION

## Ten Commandments divisiveness on display

St. Louis Post-Dispot

hen public officials dedict to post the Ten Commandments in the Ten Dublic places, they often stress the religious significance to a Christian nation. But when they defend these monuments in court, they push religion into the background and make elaborate, but often faulty, arguelaborate, but often faulty, argutance of the commandments in American history.

Last week was no different as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of a 6foot-tall granite monument on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, Texas, and Ten Commandments plaques in two county courthouses in Kentucky.

Mathew D. Staver, defending the Kentucky plaques, stressed that there were "really, very few" religious words in the Ten Commandments. An incredulous Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fired back, "Have you read the first four commandments when you say

The Supreme Court's task is not to decide whether Ten Commandments displays in general violate the First Amendment, but, rather, where to draw the line between displays that are constitutional and those that are not.

Not all displays abridge the First Amendment's bar to "an establishment of religion." Certainly, the Supreme Court itself need not sandblast the mural of Moses and the Ten Commandments from the courtroom's east wall. The mural is a piece of art depicting the great lawgivers of history, from the Babylonian King Hammurabi to Confucius to Napoleon to Mohammed

Just as clearly, on the other hand, the First Amendment does not permit former Alabama Supreme Court Judge Roy Moore to place a 2-6-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Supreme Court building, virtually turning the rotunda into a religious sanctuary.

The Texas and Kentucky displays lie somewhere between those extremes. The Texas monument is one of 17 on the Capitol grounds, scattered among tributes to Confederate soldiers and pioneer women.

Like a similar monument on the Missouri Capirol grounds in Jefferson City, it was donated by the Fra far promotional campaign by Cecil B. DeMille for his 1956 movie The Ten Commandments." The settings of the Kentucky plaques also have been secularized over the years with the didditions of copies of the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Common Capital C

What separates the constitutional from the unconstitutional display — size, location, proximity to other historical artifacts or the statements public officials make

when erecting the displays? The justices appeared to be struggling for answers. Except, that is, for Justice Antonin Scalia, for whom the answer was easy. The Ten Commandments, he declared, is "a symbol of the fact that government derives its authority from God."

But the justices likely to cast the deciding vote weren't so certain. "It's so hard to draw the line," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said. Justice Athony M. Kennedy asked at one point why an atheist couldn't just "avert his eyes" at the Texas monument. But he also stated it was obvious that the main value of the displays was their "re-

ligious purpose."
Although the Kentucky plaques are much smaller than the Texas monument, they also are harder to defend, the Kentucky counties proclaimed that they were posting the commandments to support Judge Moore, to demonstrate "Americas" Christian heritage" and to emphasize Jesus Christ's role as "Prince of Ethics."

The Kentucky counties subsequently added other texts, enjouently added other texts, enjouently added other texts, enjouently added other texts, enjouence in the commandments "lieutere is no link between the commandments and the declaration of Independence." In fact, there is no link between the commandments and the declaration, nor were the Ten Commandments mentioned during the Constitutional Convention. Yet the Kentucky counties argued that adding secular elements to the Ten Commandments display cured any constitutional problems.



If the court buys this reasoning, it would drag Ten Commandments cases the way of creche decisions finding Nativity scenes standing alone on a courthouse staircase unconstitutional, but ones joined by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman on the courthouse lawn secular enough for prime time.

Justice O'Connor seemed to consider age a possible criterion for approval, suggesting that preservation of an "old object" might be a nonreligious justification for a Ten

Commandments display. That would have the practical advantage of not requiring bulldozers to remove big granite monuments from the middle of town squares. A majority of Americans believe in the principles of the Ten Com-

mandments, but that doesn't give government the right to force-feed them to the minority — whether atheists or pantheists or Buddhists — that does not. And the transparent ploy of diminishing the commandments' religious significance in an attempt to gain the court's approval of public display insults

## Taking steps to understand what service means

BY NANCY Y. BEKAVAC

wery morning at sunrise. I walls my large mixed-breed dogs through my small college town. There's a descarate quality most more than the college town. There's a descarate quality contained to the college of the colle

There's an ROTC unit at this cluster of small colleges, Al walked south, they came toward me, running in formation on the street, three or four abreast, mostly short-haired men, but there were some women with pony tails. They wore gray "ARMY" T-shirts, black shorts and orange web belts. The lead officer, a chesty 40-year-old, responded to my "Hello," and he and the group rain in place to let me and the dogs cross in front of them. As they passed behind me, a woman's voice called out the next verse, and then they all repeated lit. "IfI die in a combat zone, put me in a box and ship me home."

a dull thud as they jogged slowly past. As I reached the far corner, I tried to get hold of my feelings. Only one of them was likely to have seen a combat zone, and I bet none of them had ever looked into "a box."

I teared up suddenly and my chest conracted, remembering my first sightings of body bags on the tarmae in South Vietnam, where I was working as a reporter in 1970. When I was in high school, I'd seen the coffins of young military men and women arriving at the funeral home my family ran in Clairton, Pa. The coffins, accompanied by soldiers, were uncrated from their shipping cases and put on a bier.

I remember the faces of the families, stunned and puzzled, when they faced the coffins, the sound of muffled sobs and the women wringing their hands and handkerchiefs, if they were older, or tissues for the younger ones.

Then I was brought back to the present by the next cadence: "Put my medals on my chest, tell my mom I did my best."

They ran off, and I lost their sound as the dogs tugged me along. I was blinking fast, remembering those funerals in that other small town, where I had grown up, as friends and ministers gathered to try to console the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters. My brothers would helo the familiary to the familiary the familiary to the familiary the familiary to the familiary to the familiary to the familiary the familiary to the familiary the fa

ly members into the cars for the trip to the cemetery, and I stayed behind to clean. The young people I encountered on the

street that day could not know or imagine those long-ago scenes, except perhaps as television films or news clips or photos in newspapers.

Surely, they must think, those scenes

could never be about them, or their friends or families; surely their circle of family and buddies would never blink back tears in the morning light as the trumpet sounded taps, or hug the folded flag the soldier handed to them.

My walk continued, toward the bakery and my morning circle of friends, coffee and gossip. Behind me, those shining young people, beautiful in their strength and sure in their purpose, were being molded to defend me — to defend us. Surely, I want none of them harmed — no boxes, no medals, no weeping mothers. But surely I want to be secure, to have all of this protected. If I will that end, must I will that means?

their very sacredness.

It is no answer to say those young people "volunteered" — what do they know about alternatives? What other way can they afford their expensive colleges? How else can they feel they are serving their country?

This is a very pleasant small town. Once they ran past me, there was no mark that those young soldiers had been there. It would be pleasant to put them out of my mind, to put all that is going on in our name out of my mind, as we do every day. It would be pleasant and wrong.

Nancy Y. Bekavac is president of Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

### Mallard Fillmore

GEE!...ACCOPDING
TO THIS STORY;\*
THERE'S A WHOLE
GENERATION
OF US
SELFFEN LIFE-OR JOBNEVERTHELESS
NEVERTHELESS
NEVERTH

PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

#### Car theft capital

MD UPPER BORO Nearly half of all auto thefts in Maryland occur in Prince George's County, though the jurisdiction has only about 15 nercent of the state's nonulation, officials say. State delegates from

the county are seeking legislation to help solve the problem One bill would require insurance

companies to contribute a dollar for every car insured to a state fund devoted to combating vehicle theft

#### Riverside development

AL BIRMINGHAM — About 4.5 miles along the Cahaba River in suburban Birmingham will be kept in its natural state as part of 325 acres set aside for conservation by the developer of the upscale Liberty Park.

The area will be off-limits to future construction or tree clearing and will be maintained in a way that meets federal, state or city conservation policies, project manager Sam Lowery said.

#### Working for a nonprofit

MA BOSTON — The state's nonprofit work force grew by 8.6 percent between 2000 and 2003, while overall employment fell by 4.1 percent, according to a research group. Its report found that nonprofit organizations employed 420,671 people, or 13 percent of the state's work force. That's nearly double the national average of 6.9 percent. Only North Dakota, Washington, D.C., and Vermont have higher percentages of workers in the nonprofit sector, according to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth.

#### Gimme the M.O.N.F.Y

GA ATLANTA — Braswell, former University of Georgia cheerleading coach still owes UGA more than \$300,000 for expenses she ran up in the three on-campus cheerleading camps she hosted last summer, officials say

A university lawyer Braswell could face legal action if she doesn't pay up soon. Braswell's husband said the couple disputes the amount UGA says she owes. The university cited food, housing and other services it provided for Braswell's private corporation.

## Dude, that's my shirt

GRAPEVINE — As Napoleon Dynamite would put it, a sweet deal has fallen into Ran-For four summers in the 1980s

Sowa hawked T-shirts with a helicopter image on them designed by a pal. Phil Goettl. Each summer there was a different design. And each summer Sowa sold a couple of hundred shirts to the rough-and-tumble guys who explored — with dynamite — for oil and natural gas in remote areas of the West

## **AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

Two decades later, the geeky, quirky, tetherball-loving Napo-leon, title hero of the wildly popular cult movie, showed up onscreen wearing these same shirts.

Since "Napoleon Dynamite" was released last spring, Sowa has sold several thousand of the helicopter tees online. Now the shirts will be sold in 600 Hot Topic stores in malls in all 50 states and Puerto

The film, made in 2003 by the husband-and-wife team Brigham Young University students Jared and Jerusha Hess, has grossed more than \$45 million in theaters alone and sold more than a million DVDs in about three

### Ice cream truck fatality

WEST PALM REACH - A 2-year-old boy was fatally injured when he ran into the path of an ice cream truck in the parking lot of his anartment complex, and the driver allegedly left the scene, authorities said

Angela Rodriguez, 27, later turned herself in and was charged with leaving the scene of a fatality. which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence. She was jailed in



50F is just right With the Washington Monument in the background, a pair of sailors maneuver their boat on the Potomac River in Washington as temperatures rose to about 50 degrees Farenheit.

lieu of \$100,000 bail. Witnesses said the driver got out of her truck after the wreck and moved the boy.

Moses Joseph, before driv-Moses died after his mother Emmanuelle Richard ran to him

"That's all she has," said family friend John Chery, who had been on his way to pick up Moses to go to a park. "You just don't know how lovable this child was."

### Plateau drilling

ing away.

GRAND JUNCTION — Mesa County commissioners backed a recommendation by federal officials for managing the Roan Plateau in western Colorado. The plan would allow limited drilling on the plateau, an area that environmentalists say is rich with wildlife and diverse ecosystems Elected officials in at least five cities in neighboring Garfield County oppose the proposal

#### Price of prosecution

AZ PHOENIX — Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas asked county supervisors for an additional \$6.3 million this year to shore up salaries for prosecutors. The office experienced 17 percent turnover last year. Thomas said that more than 70 percent of all county prosecutors have five years' experience or less.

### One seat, 3 candidates

DUBUQUE — Democrats are lining up to run in 2006 for Congress in eastern Iowa's 1st District. Rick Dickinson, an economic development official in Dubuque, announced his intentions over the weekend. The seat is held by Rep. Jim Nussle, a Republican who's widely expected to run for governor in 2006. Dickinson is the third Democrat to announce he will seek the seat.

#### Avalanche kills man

ASPEN — A man taking an avalanche awareness class died after being trapped in a slide outside the boundaries of the Aspen Highlands ski area, sheriff's officials said.

The man died within a half-hour of being pulled alive from the avalanche, said Ann Stephenson of the Pitkin County sheriff's office.

His name, age and hometown were not released until his family could be notified. Officials were investigating the death.

The man was in a group of six people who were part of a class sponsored by the backcountry expedition company Aspen Expeditions, Stephenson said. A man answering the phone at Aspen Expeditions referred all questions to au-

It was not clear what triggered the avalanche.

Early estimates were that the avalanche slid 3.000 vertical feet. said mountain weather and avalanche forecaster Scott Toepfer of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center



Mike Brumet goes "over the falls" World upside down while riding a huge wave during the first heat of the Mavericks Surf Competition in Half Moon Bay, Calif.



It's a yawner A 4-week-old bear cub yawns while its siblings rest after being weighed and measured during a den study in Cottonball, Ark. Black bears in Arkansas have been on the comeback trail for the past several decades. After the bears were wiped out in the 19th and early 20th centuries, biologists reintroduced 254 bears into the Arkansas wilderness during the 1960s. Now the state's black bear population is about 3,500.



Claire Ablett, center, her husband, Alluring goods Graham, and son, Tom, 11, far right, of Lincolnshire, England, look at Cartier watches while visiting upscale stores at the Mall at Millenia in Orlando, Fla., Orlando tourism officials have unveiled an \$8 million marketing campaign to lure tourists seeking luxury goods.



On the march the fall of the Alamo in San Antonio.

People portraying the Texan army march during the San Antonio Living History Association's "Dawn at the Alamo," a ceremony commemorating



Circle of death The husband and wife daredevil
D. ride the Wall of Death together on their virtuage Harley and Indian
motorcycles at the Iron Horse Saloon in Ormond Beach, Fla., during Bike



Logging out
U.S. Forest Service Law
Enforcement officers carry a chair
with 72-year-old Joan Norman after
she refused to move from a logging
access road leading to the Fiddler
timber sale in Oregon.



Long brush strokes

Clarence Lambert, with Expert Window Cleaning, Co., of Baton Rouge, La., uses a water brush system reaching more than 40 feet from the ground to wash outside windows along the crosswalk from the Argosy Artium to the casino in downtown Baton Rouge.

### To reek or not to reek

CA SAN LUIS OBISPO — A new county law aims to keep readers from reeking.

Libraries in San Luis Obispo County have had their own rules banning offensive body odor since 1994, but the policy became law after the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that lets authorities kick out malodorous guests.

The law can raise tough ques-

tions for librarians, said Irene Macias, Santa Barbara's library services manager.

"What is bad odor?" Macias

what is bad odor? Macias asked. "A woman who wears a strong perfume? A person who had a garlicky meal?"

#### 'PEZheads' unite

DE PERE — For most people, PEZ is just a candy, but Barry Umbs calls his addiction to collecting PEZ dispensers "a bit of an illness."

Umbs, an engineering manager for Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, joined some 60 other self-described "PEZheads" at a convention in De Pere.

The man has been a feverish PEZ dispenser collector for the past 15 years, and seeks not only each kind of dispenser, such as ones featuring Bugs Bunny, but the same kind from different countries, with different patent numbers and packaging.

The event, the second held by Bryan and Tammy Lewis of De Pere, offered PEZheads the chance to buy, sell and swap their dispensers, show off their collections, and share PEZ news.

## LA BATON ROUGE — In Loui-

siana, not just anyone can sell a bunch of pretty flowers. You have to have a license.

U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola ruled that the state can keep its unique law requiring florists to pass a test and get a license to work on their own. Would-be florists had argued that the law unconstitutionally bars them from entering the occupation. About half of all applicants fail

About half of all applicants fail the test, which includes a written exam and one in which they must create four floral arrangements in as many hours. Unlicensed "floral clerks" can work only in a shop that also has a licensed florist.

"There are few occupational licensing laws as crazy as this one in this country," said Clark Neily with the Institute for Justice, a libertarian nonprofit law firm in Washington, D.C.

Neily has argued that the question of who has floral talent should be left to the market: people whose arrangements are ugly would soon find themselves without customers.

#### Student stabbed at party

MA AMHERST — A University of Massachusetts student was stabbed in the neck during a party on campus, school officials said.

UMass spokesman Ed Blaguszewski said the stabbing occurred around 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday at the Student Union Ballroom. The crowd of about 700 gathered after a fashion show earlier in the evening at the Student Union.

The stabbing occurred during a fight that was broken up by UMass police officers using pepper spray. The student, who was not identified, was treated at Holyoke Hospital and released, Blaguszewski said. No suspects have been identified

#### Don't fish the state fish

NE LINCOLN — An animal rights group has a beef with the state fish.

People for the Ethical Treat-

ment of Animals is asking Gov. Dave Heineman to declare the channel catfish, Nebraska's state fish off limits to fishing.

PETA launched a campaign last year to ban fishing, arguing that it is a cruel thing to do.

Heineman rejected the request. "Fishing is a time honored tradition in Nebraska, and I have no intention of modifying Nebraska's fishing guidelines," he said.

#### Better than 'Survivor'

CA SAN FRANCISCO — They value privacy, solitude and penthouse living.

And yet expectant parents George and Gracie are now starring in their own reality show. All it takes are two peregrine fal-

All it takes are two peregrine falcons, one Web camera and \$30,000 from a corporate giant.

"They're part of life here in downtown San Francisco," said Brian Swanson, a spokesman for that corporate giant, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The birds live on a 33rd-floor

ledge of the utility's headquarters.

An Internet presence will substantially increase the raptors' voyeuristic fan club. The comings and goings of the falcons can be seen at www.scpbrg.org.

### Destructive grass fires

CARSON—Grass fires driven by 45 mph wind swept across an area of southwestern Iowa, destroying four rural homes and blackening more than 4,000 acres.

The largest of the blazes was started by a house fire east of Carson, said Terry Hummel, the county's emergency management coordinator. It was not immediately clear if that house was one of the four that were destroyed.

The blazes jumped bare fields and ditches as wind gusted to 45 mph and temperatures rose to record highs in the 70s, spreading across about 12 miles in the county east of Omaha, Neb.

Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation.

#### Tomato, tamahto

TRENTON — The humble tomato may technically be a fruit, but lawmakers here consider it a vegetable.

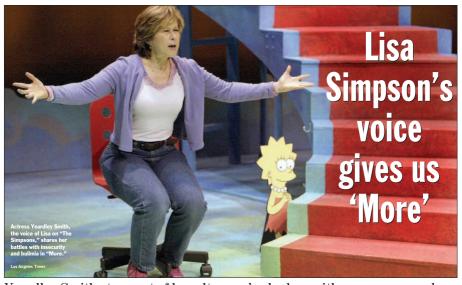
Members of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Monday approved a measure designating the Jersey tomato as the official state vegetable. A similar proposal is pending in a Senate committee.

Sponsors of the measure get around the fact that the tomato is considered a fruit by using a century-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that slapped a vegetable tariff on tomatoes, similar to the tax placed on cucumbers, squashes and beans.

"Botanically it's a fruit, legally it's a vegetable," said Sen. Ellen Karcher, who is co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

Stories and photos from wire services

## **FACES**



## Yeardley Smith steps out of her alter-ego's shadow with a one-woman show

jobs in the universe.

And I feel deeplu

connected to Lisa. I'm

so proud of her. ??

actress, on voicing Lisa Simpson

Yeardley Smith

BY LYNNE HEFFLEY Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD y most measures, Yeardley Smith is a success: an Emmy Award, a reported \$5.5 million salary, a place in entertainment history as part of TV's longest-running sit-

Dressed in jeans, T-shirt and blue cardigan. Smith easily blends in with other mall denizens. But what's in that paper bag she's toting?

"I washed my purse last night, and it was still damp this morning," she offers. Ah, earnest and obscure. An explanation

worthy of Smith's animated alter ego: brainy, soulful and quirky Lisa, whom she voices on "The Simpsons

At a yarn shop and a tea import store where she's a regular, the owner and staff greet Smith with easy familiarity. But other customers remain unaware that there's a TV star in the house, even when Smith's kid-like voice ("my mother always said my voice could cut glass") shifts naturally into Lisa Simpson's plaintive, higher register

That's life for an invisible celebrity. "It's one of the greatest jobs in the universe," she says. "And I feel deeply connected to Lisa. I'm so proud of her

And yet, the anonymity Smith experiencas the voice of a cartoon character, while comfortable, is peculiarly chafing for

someone who would "never, ever take the liberty of resting on 44 It's one of the areatest my laurels in any way.

shape or form." So much so, that she is stepping out of her comfort zone with an intensely personal show

one-woman Called "More," it is a seriocomic chronicle of what has been a lifetime quest for enough

fame, enough love - and enough food - to assuage Smith's "sucking vortex of need" to succeed

Directed by Tony Award-winning actor Judith Ivey, "More" ran off-Broadway last ear; a revised version of the show opened Feb. 18 for a three-week run at the Falcon

Theatre in Burbank, Calif. "It was important that it be funny, but I had to dig deep to do it well," Smith says. "It's the hardest work I've ever done."

Among the intimacies she shares within

a framework of whimsy and salty humor is her secret battle with bulimia. "I didn't have time for hangovers, so I

was bulimic instead. For 25 years. And nobody ever knew. It was easier to keep under wrans than fall-

ing down drunk. It gave you this incredible sense of control. and boy, you thrived on that illusion.'

"More" isn't about "chest-pounding," Ivev insists. "It's whimsical and wacky with a universality to it, whether you're bu-limic or not, whether you're an actor or

Smith seemed well on her way to adoration and fame when, at 19, she made it to Broadway, appearing in the 1984 production of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing. That early breakthrough was followed by big parts in forgettable films, small parts in Oscar-winning films ("City Slickers" and "As Good as It Gets") and regular roles in sitcoms ("Dharma & Greg " and "Herman's Head")

Stardom without the face time Smith

craved came in 1987, a year after she had appeared in Terry Garner's play "Livin' on Salvation Street," at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. "I think 12 people, total, came to see it," Smith says.

Fortunately, one of them was psons" producer Bonnie Pietila, who re-membered Smith when casting Matt Groening's animated clips for "The Tracy Ullman Show," where "The Simpsons"

Over lunch at Fox Studios, after recording new Lisa lines, Smith muses that being able to reveal herself so publicly marks a turning point for her. She's still angst-ridden - she'll never work again, she'll cause hurt feelings by choosing one knitting class over another, her show will bomb and damage the theater's reputation — but she's learning to focus on what she has accomplished, "not on what's undone."

Her marriage of two years (to actor Daniel Erickson) has helped. So has an eating disorder recovery program. Her voice-over Emmy, once a symbol of her failure as an actor with a body as well as a voice, has been rescued from a closet shelf. It appears on stage with her, as does a cutout of Lisa Simpson, who she says always makes her happy.
"Think of all that energy that I've wasted

being this hard on myself," she says.

## **Tucker seeks protection**

Country singer Tanya Tucker has filed an order of protection against her former fiance, whom Tucker claims has harassed and assaulted her

Tucker, 46, alleges that Jerry Laseter, 43, has harassed her before shows, grabbed her by the throat. given her a black eye and threatened her. The former couple have a daughter. Lavla, 5

The order was signed by a William



Tucker

son County, Tenn., judge on Thursday. A court hearing is scheduled for April 1. Laseter denied the allegations Friday, saying he had never been physically abusive in any way.

#### Princess gets fairy tale nod

Her marriage to a crown prince was like a fairy tale, so it was fitting when the Australian-born crown princess of Denmark was named as an honorary Hans Christian Andersen ambassador

Princess Mary, a former Sydney real estate worker who married Danish Crown Prince Frederik in a lavish ceremony in Copenhagen last year, will promote the Danish author's works in Australia as part of her new role. Born in 1805, Andersen is known for classics such as "The Little Mermaid" and "The Ugly Duckling."

#### Teen's cameo wish granted

A Wisconsin teen who has had four heart surgeries spent the day recently at a hospital of a different kind.

Kassie Crose, 19, of Green Bay, had a walk-on role on the ABC soap opera "General Hospital." Plus, she got to meet actor Maurice Benard. The Florida-based Kids Wish Network fulfilled Crose's wish applicationbased on the teen's long battle with congenital heart disease

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

## Gas prices reach \$2 a gallon

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The retail price of gasoline rose 7 cents last week to average \$2 per gallon nationwide, the Energy Department reported Monday.

That's the highest average price since early November, but still six pennies below the peak set last May. The jump in retail gasoline prices coincided with a 25-centper-gallon increase in the price of gasoline futures last week and as crude oil futures briefly rallied above \$55 a barrel.

The government survey said the average price nationwide of regular-grade unleaded gasoline rose 7.1 cents last week to \$1,999 per gallon. Prices are 26.1 cents higher than a year ago.

Pump prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$2.174 per gallon, and cheapest on the Gulf Coast, averaging \$1,900 per gallon. In the Midwest, gas averages are \$2.009 per gallon.

One of the key factors that drove the price of gasoline higher was the rising cost of oil - the result of strong demand, tight global supplies, geopolitical uncertainties and the falling value of the dollar.

The price of light crude for March deliv-ery rose 11 cents to \$53.89 a barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil is about 45 percent more expensive than a year ago.

In other Nymex trading, November gasoline futures fell by less than a cent to \$1.5053 per gallon



Newly named Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer, center, his predecessor Nobuyuki Idei, left, and new President Ryoji Chubachi, share a light moment in Tokyo on Monday Stringer became the first foreigner to head the major Japanese electronics firm as the company seeks to improve results at its faltering core electronics business.

## Sony taps Westerner to head company

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO - Determined to break with its past, Sony Corp. tapped a foreigner former CBS executive Howard Stringer as CEO Monday and vowed to turn around its lagging electronics sector by linking it with its entertainment businesses - a goal that has long eluded the company.

A native of Wales who later acquired U.S. citizenship, Stringer, 63 has belined make Sony's music and movie business one of the Japanese company's few bright spots in recent years. He replaces Nobuyuki Idei, 67, who has led the Tokyo-based company for a decade.

The shake-up comes amid growing concern about whether Tokyo-based Sony can revive its electronics operations in the face

of cheaper competition from Asian rivals. Foreign executives at major Japanese companies are still extremely rare. The one exception has been Brazilian-born Carlos Ghosn, chief executive at Nissan Motor Co., who has become a hero here by reviv-

ing the automaker from near-collapse to growth in the past several years. Stringer, vice chairman at Sony and

11 The pace of innovation across all the businesses in which we compete has changed. So Sony too must change.

> **Howard Stringer** New Sony CFO

chief executive of Sony Corp. of America, was chosen as chairman and chief executive by the board, subject to shareholders' approval in June. He speaks no Japanese.

Sony said Stringer will continue to live in New York and travel between the United States and Japan. He took U.S. citizenship

in 1985, becoming a dual British-American national, according to Sony.

Kunitake Ando said he was also stepping down as president to be replaced by Ryoji Chubachi, 57, an executive with experience in Sony's electronics and networking divisions

At a news conference in Tokyo, Stringer brushed off questions about his ability to lead a Japanese company. He joined Sony in 1997 after serving as president of CBS News from 1986 to 1988, and then president of CBS Broadcast Group from 1988 to 1995. CBS is now part of the media conglomerate Viacom Inc.

"As with all great institutions, Sony has built a tremendous legacy over 60 ears. But we cannot let that trap us or inhibit us. We need to take that legacy and re-invent it," Stringer said. "The dynamics and competitive landscape have changed. The pace of innovation across all the businesses in which we compete has changed.

#### Monday's Market Summary +1.43 +2.06 +8.45 +2.62 +6.40 -3.92 Dow Jones Indus Dow Jones Trans Dow Jones Utiliti NYSE Composite Amex Index Nasdag Composi 10,936.86 3,876.13 363.27 7,440.31 +29.79 +10.37 +20.68 +4.05 1,526.16 1,224.76 1,060.72 S&P 500 679.77 548.29 S&P MidCap 656.11 515.90 Russell 2000 12,063.35 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire 5000 +3.19 +.26 +1.10 +6.81 -1.09 +33.33 +.28 -1.18 +.86 12.073.6 NASDAQ AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) Vol (00) Last Chg 42543 122.80 +.07 Cisco 251479 34.63 +.62 Nasd100T173805 10.96 -.02 Intel 72008 44.61 -.31 Microsoft 100 65969 128.37 -.32 JDS Unitpl Tocate +.73 +.02 Vol (00) Last Chg Last +.07 +.62 -.02 -.31 -.32 -.62 +1.19 SemiHTr iShJapan SP Engy iShRs2000 DJIA Diam OilSvHT 1.96 13.60 4.48 5.89 5.25 17.15 -.22 Oracle -.62 SunMicro +1.19 Sirius CellThera -.13 ApidMati 15.40 32.24 +.29 109.33 99.29 12.23 +.32





Dollar buys€0.735367
British nound \$1.97
Japanese ven (March 10)102.00
South Korean won (March 9)979.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)
British pound\$1.9133
Canada (Dollar)1.2272
Denmark (Krone)5.30
Egypt (Pound)5.793
Euro\$1.32/0.7553
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.8003
Hungary (Forint)182.45
Iceland (Krona)58.57
Israel (Shekel)
Japan (Yen)105.93
Kuwait (Dinar)0.292
Norway (Krone)5.85
Philippines (Peso) 54.62 Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.58
Saudi Arabia (Riyai)3.56
Singapore (Dollar)
Switzerland (Franc)1,004.72
Thailand (Baht)38.33
Turkey (New Lira)1.2580
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the

Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-ing Calliby, Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-pound.

#### PRECIOUS METALS

### INTEREST RATES

Discount rate	3.5
Federal funds market rate	2.5
3-month bill	2.7
30-year bond	4.6
Sources: The Associated Press, Bi	ank i

## Asian carmakers top magazine's annual list of trouble-free vehicles

So Sony too must change.'

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN The Associated Press

DETROIT - U.S. automakers improved the reliability of their products last year, but Hyundai Motor Co. and other Asian companies still make the most trouble-free vehicles, according to a survey released Monday by Consumer Reports magazine.

Customers reported an average of 17 problems per 100 vehicles for 2004 models from Daimler-Chrysler AG's Chrysler Group, Ford Motor Co. and General Mo-tors Corp., the magazine said. That was down from 18 problems per 100 in 2003.

Japanese and Korean automakers had a rate of 12 problems per 100 vehicles - unchanged in the magazine's last three surveys. European automakers, some of whom have battled quality issues in recent years, had 21 problems per 100 vehicles. That's up from 20 a year ago.

The survey is part of Consumer Reports' annual auto issue, scheduled to hit newsstands Tuesday.

The 2004 Hyundai Sonata was the most reliable vehicle in 2004, with two problems per 100 vehicles. Consumer Reports said the Sonata is "further establishing remarkable around from one of the least reliable brands to one of the best.

As an overall brand, Hyundai recorded a reliability rating of 11 problems per 100 vehicles, tying it with Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus and Nissan Motor Co.'s Infiniti nameplates. Subaru was the most reliable brand in 2004, with an average of eight problems per 100 vehicles.

Reliability can vary widely within a company. The 2004 Ford Mustang was the most reliable car made by a U.S. manufacturer, with five problems per 100 vehicles, the magazine said. But Ford's Lincoln Navigator sport utility vehicle tied with the Nissan Quest minivan as the least reliable, with 49 problems per 100

vehicles. Consumer Reports measures reliability by surveying its sub-scribers. The magazine collected data on a record 810,000 privately owned or leased vehicles, 20 per-cent more than the 675,000 vehicles included in last year's sur-





### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Thursday lows in the mid 30s. Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to

cloudy with isolated afternoon rain-showers. Highs in the 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s. Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lowe to mid 30s. Thursday lows in the

upper teens.
France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Thursday lows in the 30s.
Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain and snow-showers. Highs in the 30s. Thursday lows in the mid teens to mid 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with afternoon rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Thursday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with afternoon snowshowers. Highs in the lower 30s. Thursday lows in the upper teens

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s. Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers

Highs in the lower to mid 50s. Thursday lows in the mid 30s. Kosovo: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Thursday lows in the mid to upper

Norway: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with morning rain and snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Thursday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. In the north, Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. In the south,

Thursday lows in the 40s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and snowshowers. In the north and inland, highs in the 40s with and initial 1, highs in the 40s with Thursday lows in the upper 20s. In the south and west, highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s with Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil

5555

tp://ows.public.sembach.ar.mii				
SUN & MC	OON			
iunrise (Baghdad iunrise (Frankfurt iunset (Baghdad iunset (Frankfurt)	6:52AM 6:06PM	Tomorrow 6:20AM 6:50AM 6:07PM 6:22PM		
0 6	9			





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



## Horoscope

The day gets off to a fabulous start, until that kink in the plan — this Clocks oddly familiar. It's easy to blame your spouse, friends or the powers that be for the problem that keeps returning to your life like a boomerang. The sun, moon, Venus and Uranus all transiting psychic Piscos lends great inutility powers if you turn inward for the truth.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9). It's one of the most joyful years once you

determine where to apply yourself. When you happly contribute to someone in the next 10 weeks, you light up a life — and so are put in touch with your deep need to help others. The social swirf upfits you in April and May. New training in August improves finances. Love signs are Aries and Aquarius.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19). A beatific scene has you wondering: Is this the calm before the storm? Yes, it is. So get your iced tea, sit on the deck, prop up your feet, and enjoy the fine "weather" while it lasts.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The demands of family and work are a bit heavier than usual. Deep breathing will help you get perspective. Silly things diffuse stress — Gemini and Aquarius are experts at making you laugh.

#### **GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Put yourself in a challenging posi-

Put yoursell in a challenging position. When you trust yourself to adapt and cope, you gain confidence. That's why learning new words or following new interests makes you strong in totally unrelated areas of life.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22). Loved ones relate their situation to

you, and your opinion rises quickly to the surface. To speak or not to speak — that is the question. It is nobler to bear the slings and arrows of a loved one's reaction than to stay mum.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Everything goes right if you feel good. You don't have to pop vitamins to follow

the principles of holistic health. The bottom line is, nutritious food and enough exercise improve your mood and attitude

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a one-track mind. The

caper is all planned out. Now, can you convincingly pull it off? Probably better than most. But with a Sagittarius or Leo by your side, it's as good as

### LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You're highly impressionable today. Too much mainstream media will have you focused on fear and negativity. Spend your

precious moments in nature, with animals or reading inspirational materials.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Cleave to your humanity. The imperfections you see in your brothers and sisters are the very ones you have the power to fix in yourself. That doesn't stop you from being irritated, but it might stop you from

acting out

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in the habit of thinking of yourself as a free agent, but someone close to you is in the habit of trying to pin you down. It used to be flattering, but now, you're busy practicing the moves to get yourself cut of the belt.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love does a jittery tap dance in your heart. The temptation is to give your power away by blindly following that oh-so-charismatic someone. Of course, you already have all the

answers you need. Trust yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your style is so distinct that you train
people to go to you for what they
need because no one else will do.
New clients, customers and sources
of income are featured.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

There's much going in your favor, but your need for introspection may cause you not to see it like everyone around you does. No matter. As Carl Jung said: "Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."

Creators Syndicate

Beetle Bailey

### **Peanuts**

















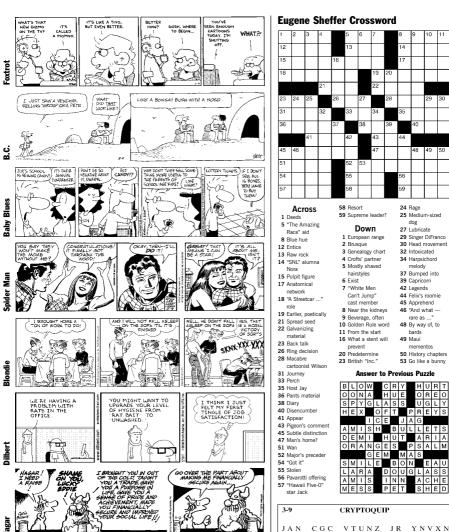












TAN

PRCXNCJ. LGJ

IRGCZ K J ZKIIKPGYJ

TAVUN J A N AVLKJ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POST OFFICE BURNED DOWN, I PRESUME IT WOULD LOOK

LIKE A CASE OF BLACKMAIL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

## **New HIV strain should sound alarm**

Dear Abby: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still

sharing needles and syringes. Time after time I hear young people say they're not worried about being exposed to HIV/AIDS because, should they get infected, they can take the appropriate medicine and they'll be fine. Unfortunately, they could be dead wrong. If they become infected the medicines they will have to take can cause serious side effects and must be taken for the rest of their lives. Also, not all people benefit from the medica

tions, especially those who are unfortunate enough to be infected

with a strain of virus that's al-

ready resistant to one or more

classes of drugs.

Abby, people need to understand that HIV is not spread through the air, or from shaking hands or hugging someone who has the virus. If you have unpro tected sex or share needles and syringes you could become infected. It's up to all of us to

Dear Abby protect ourselves and our partners. - Mervyn R. Silverman, M.D.,

> American Foundation for AIDS Research Dear Dr. Silverman: I agree that it's critically important for folks to protect themselves and their loved ones from sexually transmitted

Former President.

diseases (STDs). In order to do that, they must act responsibly. I hope the announcement will remind everyone about a subject that seems to have been forgotten in the last decade

Dear Abby: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have been struggling with my weight for two years. I have tried Weight Watchers and other weight-loss programs, and I try not to eat between meals or consume a lot of junk food - but I just can't stop.

My narents keen pressuring me to lose 40 pounds. Even my friends say I should lose weight They say if I do, my crush would notice me more. Can you give me any tips for losing weight?

 Chubby in Cleveland Dear Chubby: Everything has a price. If you want to lose weight, the price you'll have to pay is abstaining from high-carb, high-fat, empty-calorie food for a

Losing weight is like banking: If you eat more calories than you "spend," you'll have fat in your "savings account." If you spend more calories than you save, you'll gradually become lean and

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles

one letter to each square

VAREN

VOYEC

GLUTLE

to form four ordinary words

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



RISING RIVER. RAYLEY Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A Yesterday's

Jumbles: OLIAII JUDGE Answer

(Answers tomorrow) PÉTITE CHALET Known to leave when teenagers have their

friends over - PEACE AND QUIET

## Carefully suggest ADD treatment

Dear Annie: My son-in-law might have ADD. He exhibits nervousness and impulsive behavior. While having a conversation with him, he is not really engaged but instead is formulating his next question, which is often totally off-topic. He makes out-of-the-blue,

off-the-wall comments Several years ago, my daughter was asked about the possibility that her husband had ADD, and she admitted he might, but nothing was done with that information. Given the recent television awareness campaign for adult ADD and the emergence of new drugs as a possible solution, it would appear there could be a way to improve the lives of my daughter and son-in-law. Can I tactfully suggest that my daugh-ter revisit this issue, or should I

- Caring Father Dear Caring Father: That TV ad campaign is paid for by a pharma ceutical company, and it has its



own agenda to promote Your son-in-law may not have ADD, but if you feel you must do son thing, give your daugh-ter the address of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (www.add.org), P.O. 543, Pottstown, PA 19464 and tell her she might want to check it out. The rest is up to

her. You are treading a fine line between caring and interfering, but you know that. A lot depends upon how likely your daughter is to listen to you, and how receptive her husband will be if she brings up the subject. Please allow her to handle it

Dear Annie: I soon will be 16 years old, and I have many close friends whom I e-mail almost every night, including one who lives in Texas and another in Hawaii

I usually get on the computer and instant-message after finishing my homework, but lately, my dad has been coming into the room, saying he wants to send some e-mails. I know his e-mails are important, so I give him the computer to do his work, but afterward, he sits and plays Solitaire for a really long time. I can't get back on the computer for hours, and my friends are

often asleep or busy by then.

I don't know what, exactly, to ay to my dad. I know his e-m take precedence, and there's nothing wrong with Solitaire, but my friends are important to me. and I'm starting to miss them.

 — Alone, But Not Lonely
Dear Not Lonely: There's no reason Dad can't work out a schedule so you each get to use the computer

Here's how to say it: "Dad, could you please set aside a specific time when I can use the computer every night? I promise when the time is up, I will get off immediately so you can use it Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmallbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c'o Creators Sync

cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

### **Family Circus**



"Who wants to guess what PJ drew a picture of?"

## POPULATION EXPLOSION 6 HEIR IS Mamuh MRA 3/4

© Gary "Whatever he likes, be sure to take it off our grocery list."



"I dunno. We're just so far up, ik this would be better on the tube.



## **SCOREBOARD**

## AFN TV & Radio

#### Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Pro basketball: Orlando at Cleveland (did).
AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-Pro basketball:
Houston at Seattle (did).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart
FLW Tour (did).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.-Outdoors: Babe Winkelman's Good Fishing (dld). AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-College basketball: Big Fast tournment came AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-College basketball: Conference USA tournament game (jip).

#### Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: lortheast Conference championship game. AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College basketball: Big

APN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College baskettonin. Englast fournament game.

APN-Radio, 2 a.m.-Pro basketball: New Jersey at New Orleans.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-College basketball: Big Sky Conference championship game.

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.-College basketball:

Big East tournament game.

ARN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Motorcycle racing: FIM Speedway GP (Sweden and Slovenia) (did).

ARN-Sports, noon-Pro basketball: Atlanta at Boston (did). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.netfor more information.

#### Baseball

#### Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

.750 .750 .600 Detroit Toronto Baltimore Boston Boston Cleveland Tampa Bay Texas Minnesota Los Angeles .600 .600 Chicago Kansas City New York Oakland .28 NATIONAL LEAGUE Atlanta Milwaukee Chicago Washington St. Louis Colorado San Francisco San Diego Arizona Cincinnati New York .80 .75 .66 .66 Pittsburgh Los Angele .400 .200

Monday's games
Washington 6, Detroit 5
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 1
Mindelpha 9, Houston 1
Toronto 12, Cleveland (ss.) 9
St. Louis 6, L. A. Dodgers (ss.) 1
Cincinnat (ss.) 10, Pittsburgh (ss.) 2
Atlanta 5, NY, Mets 0
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Vankees (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Vankees (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Sankes 4 Chicago Cubs 9, Texas 4
Milwaukee 14, Seattle 8
San Diego 4, LA, Angels 0
San Diego 4, LA, Angels 0
Colorado (sa) 8, Karisas City 7
San Francisco 6, Chicago White Sox 5
New York Yardees (sa) 9, Boston 2
Lett. Durger 50, 14, Florida (sa) 2
Lett. Durger 50, 14, Florida (sa) 2
Lett. Durger 50, 14, Florida (sa) 5
Lett. Durger 50, 14, Florida (sa) 6
Colorado (sa) 9, Arizona (sa) 6
Tuesday's games
N,Y, Yankees vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, 18

ia. Tampa Bay vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla. Cleveland vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla Florida vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla. Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers,

la. Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton,

Washington vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin,

Fla. Toronto (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort

Myers, Fla.
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale.

San Diego vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix Oakland (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson,

Ariz.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
Qakland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at
Mesa, Ariz.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
Seattle (ss) vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

Boston vs. Florida at Jupiter Flame, Ariz. Wednesday's games
Boston vs. Florida at Jupiter Fla.
Ballimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
Toronto vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Cleveland at Winter
Haven, Fla.

Detroit (ss) vs. Washington at Viera, Fla. L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peters burg, Fla. Cincinnati(ss) vs. F.

ati (ss) vs. Detroit (ss) at Lakeland. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwa-ter, Fla. St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie,

ria. Texas vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz. Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix San Francisco vs. Oakland at Phoenix Seattle vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz. L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson,

Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. San Diego (ss) at Denria Ariz. San Diego (ss) vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at empe. Ariz.

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla. Thursday's games Thursday's games
Detroit vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla. Pittsburgh vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla. L.A. Dodgers vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. N.Y. Mets vs. Raltimore at Fort Lauderdale.

la. Florida vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers.

la. Cleveland (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peters ourg. Fla.

burg, Fla. Washington (ss) vs. Cleveland (ss) at Winter Haven, Fla. San Diego vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz. Oakland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz. Kansas City vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at Surprise,

riz.
San Francisco vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa. Fia.

## College basketball

#### Men's Top 25 fared

Monday
1. Illinois (291) Idid net play, Next: vs.
North Carolina (28-3) did net play, Next: vs.
North Carolina (28-3) did net play, Next:
vs. Maryland or Clemson, Friday.
3. Wake Forest (26-4) did not play, Next:
vs. North Carolina State or Florida State, Friday.

day.

4. Kentucky (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Ar-kansas or Tennessee, Friday.

5. Duke (22-5) did not play. Next: vs. Miami or Virginia, Friday.

or Virginia, Friday.

6. Louisville (26-4) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Christian or Marquette, Thursday.

7. Boston College (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia or Providence, Thursday.

8. Arizona (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.

18. Friday. L-2-2 un nor pay, Next vs. 19. Villanova (21-6) did not play. Next vs. No. 22 Pittsburgh. Thursday of play, Next vs. South Carolina of Mississipp. Flay, Next vs. 21. Cincinnati (24-6) did not play. Next vs. 21. Cincinnati (24-6) did not play. Next vs. 22. Pittsburgh (27-7) did not play. Next vs. No. 19 Villanova. Thursday. 22. Wisconsia (207) did not play. Next vs. 24. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 26. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 27. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 28. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 29. Nevada (24-5) did not play. 29. Nevada (24-5) did not play.

25. Charlotte (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. lemphis or Saint Louis, Thursday.

## Monday's men's scores

TOURNAMENTS
Colonial Athletic Association
Championship
Old Dominion 73, Va. Commonwealth 66,
OT

Metro Atlantic Athletic Confere Championship Niagara 81, Rider 59 Mid-America an Confere

## First Round

Akron 78, E. Michigan 65 Bowling Green 75, Ball St. 73 Buffalo 73, N. Illinois 66 Kent St. 91, Cent. Michigan 60 Ohio 72, Marshall 66 Mid-Continent Confere

Nem 3.1-91, Lefth, Michigan to Oliho 72, Mid-Continent Conference Mid-Continent Conference Semifinals Oakland, Mich. 36, Chicago St. 53 Oral Roberts 80, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 69 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Florida A&M 80, Howard 56 Morgan St. 77, Mic-Eastern Shore 56 Missouri Valley Conference Championship Creighton 75, SW Missouri St. 57 Soone-Championship Soone-Championship

Sooner Athletic Confere Championship Oklahoma Baptist 82, Oklahoma Sun Belt Conference Semifinals oma City 71

Denver 77. W. Kentucky 6 Louisiana-Lafayette 80, Fla. International

West Coast Conference Championship Gonzaga 80, Saint Mary's, Calif. 67

## Women's Top 25 fared

Monday
1. Stanford (29-2) beat Arizona State 56-42. Next: TBA.
2. LSU (29-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
3. Tennessee (25-4) did not play. Next:

2.1.53 (25-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
3. Temessee (25-4) did not play. Next: A. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 5 Duke
4. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 5 Duke
4. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 10 No.
4. North Carolina (26-5) Next: TBA.
6. Baylor (24-3) did not play. Next: YBA.
7. Michigan State (25-3) beat No. 12 Minness
6. Ohlo State (28-4) did not play. Next: TBA.
9. Rutpers (25-5) beat Villianova (45-5).
10. Norte Dame (26-5) loot to No. 12 Connections (35-4) Reprint (36-5) No. 12 No

day.

14. Texas Tech (21-6) did not play. Next vs. Colorado or No. 18 Iowa State, Wednes

day. 15. Temple (27-3) beat George Washington 70-62. Next: TBA. 16. DePaul (25-4) did not play. Next: vs. TBA.

IA. 17. Kansas State (21-6) did not play. Next: . Oklahoma State or Nebraska, Wednes-

vs. Oklahoma State or Nebraska, Wednes-day. 18. Iowa State (22-5) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Tuesday.

19. Vanderbilt (22-6) did not play. Next: TBA.

DA. 20. North Carolina State (21-6) did not lay. Next: TBA. 21. Georgia (22-8) did not play. Next: TBA. 22. Penn State (19-10) did not play. Next:

TBA. 23. Boston College (19-9) did not play. Next: TBA. 24. Wisconsin-Green Bay (27-3) beat Wright State 58-48. Next: TBA. 25. TCU (23-9) did not play. Next: TBA.

## Monday's women's scores

Columbia, Mo. 105, McKendree 68
TOURNAMENTS
Atlantic 10 Conference
Championship
Temple 70, George Washington 62
Atlantic Coast Conference
Championship

Championsl North Carolina 88, Duke 67

Big East Conference Semifinals nnecticut 67, Notre Dame 54 Rutgers 64, Villanova 59 Big Ten Conferer

Michigan St. 55, Minnesota 49
Michigan St. 55, Minnesota 49
Michigan St. 58, Minnesota 49
Championship
Wis.-Green Bay 58, Wright St. 48
Mid-Continent Conference

Oral Roberts 43, W. Illinois 37 UMKC 56, Oakland, Mich. 53

UMKC 56, Oakland, Mich. 53

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
First Round
Florida A&M 81, Morgan St. 64
S. Carolina St. 70, N. Carolina A&T 60
Pac-10 Conference
Championship
Stanford 56, Arizona St. 42
Southland Conference

First Round
Louislana-Morrey T., Nicholls St. 68
McNeese St. 78, Texas St. 71, OT
Northwestern St. 51, Texas-San Antonio 48
Texas-Arlington 75, Stephen F. Austin 45
Sun Belt Conference
Seminals
Louislana-Lafayette 61, Arkansas St. 49

Middle Tennessee 65, W. Kentucky 61
TransSouth Tournament
Championship
Freed-Hardeman 88, Union, Tenn. 82

### College baseball Collegiate Baseball Top 25

TUCSON, Ariz. — The top 25 teams in the 2005 Collegiate Baseball poll with records through March 6, points and previous rank ing voting by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors:

Toyas . Texas . Tulane . Florida St. . South Carolina . Cal. St. Fullerton . Louisiana St. 13-1 19-1 12-1 Rice Georgia Tech. Wichita St. 15 10. Arkansas 11. North Carolina 12. Georgia 12. Georgia 13. Florida 14. Miami, Fla. 15. Stanford 16. Arizona 17. Texas A&M 18. Mississippi St. 19. Louislana-Laf. 20. Vanderbilt 10 11 12 14 17 19 21. Mississippi 22. Southern California 23. Nebraska 24. Michigan 25. Coastal Carolina 440 438 23

### Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with records through March 6 and previous ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball America):

Texas Cal State Fullerton South Carolina i. Louisiana State i. Florida 13 8. Vanderbilt 9. Texas A&M 15 12 11 10. Rice 11. Stanford 12. Arizona 13. Georgia 14. North Carolina 12-3 11-7 12-5 7-3 9-3 10 7 6 17 16 18 . Georgia Tech . Mississippi . Florida State 9-3 9-3 19-1 12-1 8-6 19 18. Arkansas 19. Baylor 20. Coll. of Charleston 21. Louisiana-Lafayette 22. Texas Tech 20 21 22 24 25 23 10-2 14-1 14-2 11-2 10-3 7-4 23. Oregon State 24. Texas Christian 25. Southern Califo

## Monday's scores

EAST C.W. Post 4, Merrimack 2 Rutgers-Camden 10, Albright SOUTH Boston College 9, Temple 4 Bowling Green 13, Valparaisc Cent. Michigan 2, Sacred Hea Connecticut 17, Holy Cross 5 Davidson 9, Yale 8

Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Flat International 14, Wagare 2
Flat International 14, Wagare 3
Flat International 14, Wagare 3
Flat International 14, Wagare 1
Georgetown, Va. J. Audish Pear, cod., sched.
conflict
Conflic

Walsh 2, Webber 1 Washington & Lee 14, Villa Julie 0 WPI 9, N.J. City 7

MIDWEST ethel, Minn. 11-14, Minot St Missouri 7, S. Dakota St. 2

### TANK McNamara



## SOUTHWEST Cent. Oklahoma 5-5, Angelo St. 4-1 Creighton 3, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2, 11 innings E. Texas Baptist 12-1, Rockford 9-5

E. Texas Baptist 12-1, Rockford 9-5 Hardin-Simmons 8, North Park 0 Oklahoma Baptist 6, Peru St. 0 Texas-Dallas 8, Friends 3 Texas Wesleyan 12-4, Mary Hardin-Baylor 1-3

FAR WEST Florida St. 11, Hawaii-Hilo 5 St. Mary's, Cal. 7, San Diego 6 San Jose St. 6, Santa Clara 4 TOURNAMENTS Pepsi-Johnny Quik Classic Dallas Baptist 5, Gonzaga 4 Penn St. 6, Monmouth, N.J. 3

San Francisco 7, Penn 0 Fresno St. 5, S. Utah 3

Round Rock Texas State 10, Notre Da

## ck Cla College hockey

## Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS – Top teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 6, points, and previous ranking:

1. Colorado College (16)

2. Colorado College (16)

2. Denver (4) 3. Cornell (16) 20- 7-3 24- 9-2 22- 4-3 529 512 4. Michigan (4) 5. Boston Colle 26- 7-3 21- 6-7 6. Minnesota 7. Ohio State 24-12-1 24- 8-4 357 8. Wisconsin 9. Boston University 10. New Hampshire 11. Harvard 22- 9-5 18- 8-3 266 225 12. Maine 12. Northern Michigar 18-11-7 20- 9-7 North Dakota
 Mass.-Lowell 18-13-5 20-10-4 68 67 NR 13 Others Receiving Votes: Dartmoutl gate 28, Vermont 9, Minnesota-Dulu nesota State 1, Nebraska-Omaha 1

## Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL National League
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Assigned RHP
Seth Greisinger, RHP Chad Durbin, RHP Luis
Pineda, RHP Josh Karp, LHP Micah Bowle,
LHP Bill Bray, C Drew McMillian, NF Rick
Short, INF Jared Sandberg, OF Brandon Watson and NH-OP Phill Hiatt to their minor
league camp.

league camp.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

MIAMI HEAT—Placed C Wang Zhi-Zhi on
the injured list. Activated G Steve Smith
from the injured list.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed G Anthony
coldwire. Placed C Daniel Santiago on the in-

FOOTBALL National Football League

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed DE Chike
keafor to a five-year contract. Re-signed
RB Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed S Rich Coady
and PK Todd Peterson. Re-signed KR-PR

BALTIMORE RAVENS—Agreed to terms with CB Samari Rolle on a six-year contract. CHICAGO BEARS—Signed OT Fred Miller to CHICAGO BEARS—Signed Of Fred Miller to five-year contract.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed RB Rudi ohnson to a one-year contract.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed S Kenoy Kennedy and TE Marcus Pollard.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed DE Kevin Carter o a five-year contract. Released WR David

Boston.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-signed FB Patrick Pass. Named Pete Mangurian tight

ends coach.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed S Dwight smith to a five-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Re-signed CB Williew Williams to a two-year contract. PITSBURGN STELLES - Re-signed CB Wille Williams to a two-year contract
SAN DIEGO CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
SAN DIEGO CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Agreed to terms
WIR BA Mides Selven obtal League
MONTREAL - ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge Sejun; RB ROBET Edwards
and LB-De Jimmy McClare

ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge Sejun; RB ROBET Edwards
and LB-De Jimmy McClare

Bloson, DB Serge - Signer RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signer BLOSE

MINISTRUMENT - SIGNER

MINISTRUMENT - SIG

scout. INNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Named John

WINNIPEG BLUE BUMBERS - MAINTENERS BLUE BURBERS BURBER COLLEGE

COLLEGE RUTGERS—Named Cary Godette defensive ine\_coach\_and Robert Jackson running SAN JOSE STATE—Announced the resigna-tion of Phil Johnson men's baskethall

coach, effective at the end of the season.

SANTA CLARA—Extended the contract of Dick Davey, men's basketball coach, hrough the 2005-06 season. nrough the 2005-06 season.

SOUTHERN ARKANSAS—Announced the esignation of Brian Daugherty, men's basetball coach.

UC RIVERSIDE—Fired John Masi, men's bas-

ketball coach.

WAKE FOREST—Suspended sophomore
men's basketball G Chris Paul one game for
hitting North Carolina State's Julius Hodge
in the groin during a March 6 game.

WILLIAM PENN—Named Ålan Stewart
men's opif coach.

## Woods back on top, but for how long?

The Associated Press

MIAMI - Getting back to No. 1 in the world wasn't easy for Tiger Woods

It took him eight tournaments over six months to nudge past Vijay Singh in the world ranking. And it required a Herculean effort against Phil Mickelson to win the Ford Championship at Doral, including some clutch shots that will be talked about the rest of the year.

Woods drove the 347-yard 16th green on Saturday. He twice reached the 603-yard 12th hole in two shots and made a 25-foot eagle putt in the final round to take the lead for the first time

He made a 30-foot putt on the 17th hole that turned out to be the difference. And his 63-66 was the lowest weekend by a winner in the 44-year history at Doral

"That was special," Woods said of his duel with Mickel-

The last time Woods took over No. 1 in the world ranking, he won a memorable duel by making a clutch putt on the 17th hole at Medinah to beat 19-year-old Sergio Garcia in the final major of the millennium.

Woods then stayed on top for the next 264 weeks.

This time, it might not be that easy.

His reign could be over at the end of this week or nerhaps the end of the month.

"He's certainly going to have increased competition that he hasn't had in past years," Jack Nicklaus said Monday. "You heard me a couple of years ago. What will happen to Tiger? I said a lot of his competition had not shown up yet, or guys playing against him will raise the level of their golf game

Nicklaus quickly ticked off the names of Mickelson, Singh and Retief Goosen, all of whom won majors last year, and all of whom were in the top eight at Doral. Halfway around the world, Ernie Els produced a dramatic finish of his own by making an 18-foot eagle on the last hole to win the Dubai Desert Classic.

Call it golf's version of March Madness

"It's a great week for golf," said Zach Johnson, who tied for third with Singh at Doral. "This is what the spectators want. They want these kind of duels. They will have a lot more of them. Tiger raised the bar. And now everybody is starting to come toward him.

After Woods won the '99 PGA Championship, he ended the season with four straight victories, then reeled off one of the greatest seasons in golf. Not only did he win nine tournaments and three straight majors in 2000, he won by



Back at No. 1 in the world rankings, Tiger Woods will have a harder time remaining there than he did before.

record margins and left everyone so far behind that it appeared he would be No. 1 until retirement.

Now the list of challengers is longer than ever. Singh might be able to return to No. 1 this week if he wins the Honda Classic

Els' victory in Dubai was his first of the year and puts him in a good frame of mind on the road to the Masters The Big Easy is close enough that he could be No. 1 by the

Mickelson lost another final-round showdown with Woods, although he still might be the hottest player in golf. Coming off a five-shot victory in Phoenix and a wire-to-wire win at Pebble Beach, Lefty spent 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard in stroke play and was shocked the streak didn't stretch to 11.

His back-to-back birdies after Woods pulled ahead for the first time was evidence that Mickelson is not one to wilt. He had a 30-foot birdie chip on the final hole that lipped out of the cup.

"I felt like I was playing better than anybody," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win, and when I didn't, it was a great slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots. When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

On the surface, Woods looks as dynamic as ever. After going four years without a comeback victory,

Woods now has two in a row. He came from two shots down at Torrey Pines against Tom Lehman, then made up a two-shot deficit against Mickelson in the final round at

Woods heat Mickelson, but not without a tremendous ef-

"That shows you what kind of competitor Phil is," Woods said. "Don't forget what he did on that back nine. That was impressive to watch.

Equally impressive are the first two months of the PGA Tour season. Singh won the Sony Open with a birdie on the final hole.

after Els had closed with a 62. Woods and Mickelson each have won twice. And while Els squandered two chances in Hawaii, the

victory in Dubai was important.

The only question mark right now is Singh.

He missed the cut at Pebble Beach and was eliminated in the second round of the Match Play Championship. Singh hit the ball beautifully at Doral, but simply couldn't make enough putts. Still, it was his first top 10 finish since

Singh slipped out a side door without talking about his final round Sunday. He is the only player among the top five who is playing this week in the Honda Classic.

Mickelson is taking two weeks off, one of those a skiing trip with his family in Colorado.

Woods will take off next week before resuming his road to the Masters — Bay Hill, The Players Championship, a week to practice and then on to Augusta, where he could find a large crowd of players capable of stopping him.

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## Nicklaus likely to skip Masters

BY DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. - Jack Nicklaus had planned to squeeze in a few trips to Augusta National this making 65-year-old body was fit and his game was good enough to compete in the Masters.

Now, the Masters is the last thing on his mind.

I think with what's happened to us in our family, my time is going to be spent in much different ways," Nicklaus said Monday, his first public comments since his 17-month-old grandsor grandson drowned in a hot tub. "That's the most important thing right now And I think it will be the most important thing for a long time.

Nicklaus said his chances of playing the Masters are "between slim and none," although he plans to be at Augusta National for the Champions Dinner, maybe even the Par 3 Tournament.

He still would like to play the British Open at St. Andrews in July since this is his last year of eligibility and because his son, Steve, wants to caddie for him.

It was Steve Nicklaus' son, Jake, who drowned Tuesday night.

Nicklaus sat before a small gathering Monday morning at The Loxahatchee Club, not as the steely-eyed winner of 18 major championships, but as a teary-eyed grandfather who had lost one of his 17 grandchildren.

He declined to cancel the appearance, saying it was the right thing to do.

"Life has got to move on. Life is for the living," Nicklaus said. "It hurts, but you go on. You make commitments, and you've got to do them.

But he remains so shaken that he left a statement on each chair that expressed his grief and appreciation about the love and support, hopeful it would limit the questions during a one-hour inter-

His voice cracked only once. when he mentioned that Steve's wife, Krista, is 31/2 months pregnant and probably will have the baby shortly after the British

Nicklaus is perhaps the greatest champion golf has known, win-

ning a record 18 majors over 25 seasons. But he has always taken more pride in his family.

There are the famous stories of

how he fainted when his wife Ranbara, gave birth to each of their five children. There was that memorable photo of him scooping up 4-year-old Gary after a round in the 1973 PGA Champion ship, Gary Nicklaus later played

two years on the PGA Tour. And when Nicklaus had his left hin replaced in 1999 - causing him to miss the Masters for the first time - he said it was to improve his quality of life so he could remain active with his grandchildren, not to help him play another major.

"As you can imagine, the last few days have been an over-whelmingly difficult and trying time for my entire family," Nick-laus said in his statement. "The loss of our precious, 17-month-old grandson Jake was devastating, and it is a loss that is impossible to put into words."

Nicklaus had an easier time talking about his future in golf.

"I have absolutely zero plans as it relates to the game of golf," he

If he doesn't play at Augusta, it would be only the third time since he first played in 1959. After the replacement operation in 1999, he missed 2002 because of lingering back problems.

## Giambi helps **Yankees** bop Sox

## Hudson makes scoreless debut with Braves

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi quieted the caustic Red Soy crowd with his first homer of spring training. Tim Hudson Mariano Riv. pring era eilancad



their onnonents with their domi-With fans chanting "Steroids! Steroids! Steroids!", Giambi hit a solo shot in the fifth inning of the New York Yankees' 9-2 victory

over Boston at Fort Myers Fla The public face of baseball's steroids controversy was booed before each of his five at-bats he finished 2-for-5 and is 3-for-12 this spring.

Giambi took it all in stride. He gave a mass interview, got a hug from Kevin Millar, took batting practice and signed autographs for 25 minutes.

Giambi, one of only a handful of Yankees regulars who made the 2-hour bus ride for the split-squad game, was prepared to face Red Sox Nation. Giambi said he tuned out the taunts

"Tonight was a good night for Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I'm sure he feels good about it. I know we were pleased because he didn't let the emotion of where we were and who we were playing against interfere with what he was working on.

At Tamna Bay, Fla., Rivera snarkled in his first spring appearance for the Yankees, working one per fect inning in a 3-1 split-squad loss to the Cleveland Indians

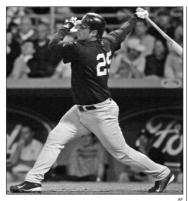
"He didn't even break a sweat," Torre said before heading to Fort Myers

Rivera threw 10 pitches, seven for strikes, and retired the side on a grounder to short and two fly balls to right.

The right-hander changed his offseason program in hopes of rejuvenating himself after the Yankees' collapse against Boston in the American League Championshin Series. He feels like he accomplished that objective. "Mentally and physically I was

tired," Rivera said, explaining the decision to change his routine. "I worked out, but I didn't throw It's not normal for me. I just felt like I needed it, so I did.

Making his debut with the Braves, Hudson worked two scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory over the New York Mets at Port St Lucie, Fla. He threw 21 of 29 pitch-



Amid derisive chants, Jason Giambi (above) had a solo homer and two hits in the Yankees' 9-2 split-squad victory over the Red Sox on Monday.

es for strikes and got four groundouts, showing off the sharp stuff that made him a huge winner with Oakland the past six years.

"It was good to finally get it out of the way," Hudson said. "I was just mainly trying to locate my fastball, stay down in the zone." The Braves sent three players

to the Athletics in a trade for Hudson last December, and he agreed to a \$47 million, four-year contract extension last Tuesday

Atlanta's new closer Dan Kolb followed with a perfect inning. Kolb was acquired in an offsea

son trade with Milwaukee, allowing the Braves to shift John oltz back into the rotation

"The first day is a little rough, the adrenaline," Kolb said. "Especially when you get traded and you're replacing pretty much a legend in Atlanta. I probably put a little too much pressure on myself." In other games:

Blue Jays 12, Indians (ss) 9: At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia likely won't start the Indians' season opener after an MRI showed the left-hander strained a muscle in his right side. Sabathia has been told not to throw for a week. Kevin Millwood, making his

first start for Cleveland, gave up five runs and seven hits in one inning. Miguel Batista pitched two hitless innings for the Blue Jays.

Nationals 6, Tigers 5: At Lake-



Tim Hudson pitched two scorless innings, throwing 21 of 29 pitch es for strikes in Atlanta's 5.0 victory Monday over the Mets.

land, Fla., Dean Palmer, attempting a comeback after retiring last year because of neck and shoulder injuries, hit a two-run homer

off Sun-woo Kim for Detroit. Washington's Tony Armas Jr. allowed three runs on five hits and two walks while striking out two over three innings

Athletics 5, Diamondbacks (ss) 0: At Phoenix, Rich Harden pitched three scoreless innings and struck out three for Oakland. Eric Byrnes hit a bases-loaded double off Russ Ortiz in the first.

Cubs 9, Rangers 4: At Surprise, Ariz., Greg Maddux gave up three hits and allowed two unearned runs in two innings in his spring debut.

Alfonso Soriano, who missed the final two weeks of 2004 with a torn left hamstring, was limping in the locker room after playing six innings and going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts. He played second hase for the first time this spring

Padres 4, Angels 0: At Tempe, Ariz., Adam Eaton was the latest San Diego starter to impress, throwing three scoreless innings and allowing three hits and walking one. Brian Giles went 3-for-3, and

Ramon Hernandez and Sean Burroughs had two hits each for the Padres.

Angels starter Jarrod Washburn pitched two shutout innings

Cardinals 6, Dodgers 1: At Jupiter, Fla., Albert Pujols hit two home runs and a hard double for the Cardinals. In eight at-bats this spring. Puiols has three homers and two doubles.

Jeff Weaver threw the home run pitches and allowed four runs and six hits in three innings.

Phillies 9, Astros 8: At Clearwa ter, Fla., Billy Wagner allowed two hits during a scoreless eighth inning against his former team. Pat Burrell hit a two-run homer, and Placido Polanco and Jimmy Rollins also homered for Philadelphia

Dodgers (ss) 4, Marlins (ss) 2: At Jupiter, Fla., Carlos Delgado was scratched from his debut with Florida because of tendinitis in the left elbow. Marlins right-hander Josh Beckett struck out seven over four scoreless innings

## Remodeled Braves look to Smoltz for home improvement

BY BILL MADDEN New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. - For

the past two days, the New York Mets have had a sneak preview of John Schuerholz's latest reinvention of the Atlanta Braves. And for starters, they found it reminiscent of all the previous teams.

You talk Braves and inevitably you're talking superior starting pitching, the driving force behind those unprecedented 13 straight first-place finishes under the Schuerholz-Bobby Cox management team — be it John Smoltz, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, Kevin Millwood or Tim Hudson doing the driving.

Or, as the key element of this year's makeover, John Smoltz

On Monday it was Hudson, the celebrated offseason acquisition from the Oakland A's, making his Braves debut, an uneventful

two-inning, two-hit, 29-pitch effort that he said "wasn't at all what they're going to see during the regular season. We knew that,

of course. Down here. No. 1 starters of Hudson's status usually don't get serious with their repertoire and an proach until their fourth spring start. On the other hand, Smoltz, who

threw two shutou innings the Mets on Sunday and begged Cox to no avail for a third, is ap proaching each start like a man in

a hurry to prove himself worthy of top-of-the-rotation status. It is understandable being that Smoltz has not known what it is to start a hallgame since June 9, 2001, or pitch 200 innings in a season, as per the expectations of a No. 1 starter, since 1997. The converted team closer since late-season '01. Smoltz, approaching 38, is attempting a "reverse"

of extraordinary proportions. "I'll be honest," said Cox, "I can't think of anyone who's ever gone from starter to closer and back to starter again — at least anyone of John's caliber. I know Hoyt Wilhelm did it back in the '60s, but he was a knuckleballer and it was an easy transition. But the fact was we lost three of our starters (Russ Ortiz, Jaret Wright and Paul Byrd) over the winter and we needed someone to replace them. Who better than

Well, in his prime, probably nobody. But as a starter, that was probably eight years ago and, in their exuberance of having him back in their rotation, no one around the Braves dares mention

### Commentary

it was a career-threatening elhou injury that prompted Smoltz to take on the less-taxing role in the 'It's funny" said Glavine who

made his spring debut as well Monday against his old team, "everyone's getting all gung ho about Smoltzie being back in the rotation, as if it's automatic he'll pitch 250 innings and win 20 games. I'm not saying he isn't capable, but it's certainly not that easy.'

According to Cox, Smoltz underwent the most comprehensive conditioning program of his career this offseason and reported to camp the strongest he's ever been Certainly no one has ever questioned Smoltz's determination, confidence or competitive fire. 'It's all about the person and

> Hudson. "Everybody knows what kind of mental makeup John has. just like Roger Clemens Randy and Johnson. They're two of the greatest pitchers in baseball and two of the

oldest. What does

why John

that say? I

see

how he takes care

of himself," said

can't do it." Even Glavine concedes that it his old stablemate is able to make the transition and be even a solid No. 2 to Hudson's No. 1, the Braves once again will be a formidable foe in the NL East.

"If he's back. said Glavine, "they have a chance to really be something.

John Smoltz's transition from

closer to starter will be a key

factor in whether the Braves

will be celebrating a 14th

consecutive division title.

If he's back, echoed Hudson, this is the best rotation (along with Mike Hampton, John Thomson and Horacio Ramirez who's coming back from offseason arthroscopic shoulder surgery) I've ever been a part of."

Considering the rotation he just left in Oakland included Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Rich Harden, that's saying something. Cox feels the same way, but tempers his enthusiasm with realism.

"We have no idea if John can pitch 200 innings," said the Braves manager. "It's easy to bet against, although if you do, you have to know Smoltzie's a pretty special guy. The way I see it, if he's gonna blow his arm out, what difference does it make if it's in the pen or as a starter?

A valid point - which only emphasizes just how high the stakes are for the Braves in this gamble they've chosen to take with their erstwhile ace

## Cards, Lions go shopping

## Arizona adds two linemen. QB Warner: Detroit picks up S Kennedy, TE Pollard

Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green dipped into the free-agent market for the third time in five days, signing defensive end Chike Okeafor to go with quarterback Kurt Warner and of-

fensive tackle Oliver Ross. "I've been a believer

since the day I got here that Arizona has all the ingredients to attract the top NFL free agents, and our three signees are a great indication of that," said Green, in his

second year with Arizona. Okeafor provides a strong upgrade for Arizona. He had a career-high 81/2 sacks for Seattle last season after recording eight the previous season. He had two sacks and four tackles in the Seahawks' 27-20 loss to St. Louis in an NFC wild-card game

Okeafor who also visited Den ver, said during his visit to Arizoheadquarters on Saturday that it was obvious Green is serious about shaking the Cardinals doormat image.

"From playing against them and watching on film, there is some heart there," he said.

The Cardinals also re-signed running back Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.

Detroit signed two players on Monday, landing hard-hitting safety Kenoy Kennedy and tight end Marcus Pollard.

Kennedy, who spent his entire five-year career with Denver, was about to board a flight to Miami to continue his free-agent tour, but had second thoughts and returned to the Lions' practice facility to sign a contract while the team was introducing Pollard

"They were calling my name and saving that I had to get on the plane or I was going to get left behind," Kennedy said. "I told them to go ahead and leave me. I decided I wanted to be a Lion

Kennedy was suspended for one game in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami's Chris Chambers, and has been fined for similar plays at least three other times.

"I think I bring a presence," he said. "Receivers are looking for me, and they might develop alligator arms

Kennedy has four career interceptions

"I think we got better today, and Kenoy is a big part of that, Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. Pollard caught six of Peyton Manning's record 49 TD passes last season with Indianapolis.

"Until a couple weeks ago, we didn't even expect that Marcus would be available, so we feel very good about adding him to the team president Matt Millen said. "He brings experience, an understanding of how to win, and some great hands,

Pollard spent 10 seasons with Indianapolis. Last season, he caught 29 passes for 309 yards and six touchdowns. He missed three games with leg injuries.

Running back Rudi Johnson signed a one-year contract to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals. Johnson who set a team mark last season with 1,454 yards rushing, will get \$6.3 million.

He became a free agent March 2. but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they had to pay him the average of the top five salaries at the position. Johnson is free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team. and says he wants to do that. He



Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci, left, and team president Matt Millen, right, flank new signee Kenov Kennedy, a hard-hitting safety who has spent his five-year NFL career with the Denver Broncos.

was naid \$1.8 million in 2004 The deal allows the Bengals to

keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice last year, will develon. Perry was sidelined by injuries for much of his rookie season.

The Dolphins signed two-time Pro Bowl player Kevin Carter to a five-year deal. A 10-year NFL veteran. Carter spent the past four seasons with Tennessee, but was released by the Titans in a salarv,can move

The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Carter ever has missed a game, totaling 598 tackles, 86 sacks, nine fumble recoveries and 16 forced fumbles He earned Pro Bowl trips in 1999 and 2002, and a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins also cut wide receiver David Boston, who failed a physical. Boston signed last year, but missed the season with a knee injury. In December, he was suspended by the NFL for four games for testing positive for steroids. Boston has denied using steroids. Cornerback Samari Rolle

agreed to a six-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens. Rolle was a 2000 Pro Bowl selection with the Tennessee Titans.

Like new Ravens receiver Derrick Mason and Carter, Rolle was a salary-cap casualty in Tennes-

In 2000, Rolle intercepted seven passes as the Titans went 13-3. He was limited to a career-low 12 games last season because of an injured left knee that required arthroscopic surgery

The Bears signed another Tennessee can cut, right tackle Fred Miller The 32-year-old veteran who hasn't missed a start since

1998, agreed to a five-year deal. The 6-foot-7, 320-pound Miller was cut by the Titans last month so he wouldn't count \$9 32 million against this year's salary cap. Fi-

nancial terms of his deal with the Bears weren't disclosed The Patriots re-signed fullback Patrick Pass, an unrestricted free

The Browns continued to rebuild their offensive line Tuesday, agreeing to terms on a two-year contract with former Tampa Bay guard Cosey Coleman.

Coleman, a 26-year-old four-year starter with the Bucca-26-year-old neers, is the second free agent guard signed by the Browns. Last week, the Browns signed former New England guard Joe Andruzzi

to a four-year \$9 million deal. Cornerback Willie Williams re-signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers for two years. The unrestricted free agent started the final 10 regular-season games and both playoff contests after Chad Scott injured his knee Oct. 17.

The Redskins agreed to terms with Mike Sellers, a special teams standout who made 29 tackles in kickoff and punt coverage last season. He also is the backup to starting H-back Chris Cooley

The Falcons signed safety Rich Coady, another low-key acquisition for the team that reached the NFC title game last season. Kicker Jay Feely, replaced by

Todd Peterson after four years with the Falcons, signed with the

## Chargers' GM gets contract extension

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - General manager A.J. Smith was given a three-year contract exten-sion through 2009 on Monday, his reward for helping transform the San Diego Chargers from the NFL's doormat to a playoff team in one season.

Smith originally signed a four-year deal in April 2003, when he was promoted to GM 11 days after his longtime friend and colleague, John But-

ler, died of cancer. "A.J. took over under diffi-

cult circumstances and has helped build the roster into a playoff competitor," said team president Dean Spanos, who in January gave coach Marty Schottenheimer a two-year contract extension through 2007.

"I do believe we've got it going in the right direction," Smith said. "We're very Smith said. "We're very pleased with last year. We chased the championship but fell short. Hopefully we'll keep banging away at this thing and continue to be in the postseason. Maybe there will be a special year built in there where we win a world championship."

San Diego was an NFL-worst 4-12 in 2003, but won the AFC West with a 12-4 record last season to reach the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons. They lost 20-17 in overtime to the New York Jets in a home wild-card game

Smith has rebuilt the Charge ers with two successful drafts a number of mostly low-key acquisitions through free agency and trades.

"The net result is, we've had a major change in personnel to the point where we have a team of players that all are of good character and are team players," Spanos said. "If anybody's proven that chasing high-priced free agents doesn't work, we've proved it in the past

Last March, Smith rid San Diego's roster of several nonproductive but high-priced players who were signed when Butler was GM, including enigmatic wide receiver David Bos ton and defensive end Marcel-

He then deftly turned a snub by Eli Manning into a windfall. Manning sent word through his father, Archie, that he didn't want the Chargers to draft him No. 1 overall. They did anyway, then traded Man-ning to the New York Giants

for Philip Rivers and three draft picks, including the Giants' No. 1 this April. Smith signed tight end Antonio Gates as a free agent rook

ie in 2003 and watched him blossom into an All-Pro last season. He acquired wide re ceiver Keenan McCardell from Tampa Bay at the trading deadline.

## NHL labor talks planned for this week

NEW YORK - Now the NHL and the play ers' association will start trying to save next season



Less than three weeks after commissioner Gary Bettman canceled 2004-05 NHL season, he invited union executive director Bob Goodenow back to the bargaining table for talks this week.

Countless meetings and proposals weren't enough to end the lockout that began in Sep tember, so Bettman wants to get talks going as soon as possible before next season is put in ieopardy, too.

He contacted Goodenow late last week to re quest a meeting, and the players' association agreed to get together, NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday.

The date, time and location of the next

It will be the first bargaining session since Feb. 19, when the sides met in a desperate attempt to save the season three days after Bettman canceled it. But even the presence of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux wasn't enough to get owners and players to reach an agreement

Bettman and Goodenow will take part in this week's meeting, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, after both leaders sat out the last session

Last week, the NHL board of governors met in New York on the same day more than 150 nlavers got an undate from union leadership in Toronto

Bettman said the board discussed many ways to get next season started on time in Oc tober, and didn't rule out the use of replacement players. He said that wasn't a choice he wanted to make, but added the league is committed to having a season that isn't delayed When players emerged from their meeting with union leadership on March 1, they were more inclined to let time pass before re-engaging in talks. Players have lost a season's salary and aren't due to be paid again until October.

#### Proposed Gatti-Mayweather bout canceled GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - A proposed

fight between WBC super lightweight champion Arturo Gatti and undefeated challenger

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been scratched Donald Tremblay, a spokesman for Gatti's promoter, Main Events Inc., said Mayweather missed a Friday deadline to sign a contract

agreeing to fight Gatti on June 11.

Main Events will find another boxer to face Gatti (39-6, 29 knockouts) on that date, Tremblay said.

Mayweather (33-0, 22 knockouts) and his promoter, Top Rank Inc., apparently couldn't agree on how much money he would be guaranteed for the fight. Tremblay said.

## **Heat keep rolling toward** securing top spot in East

MIAMI - The Miami Heat are leaving their Eastern Conference rivals behind. Dwyane Wade scored 32

points, Shaquille O'Neal added 25 and the Heat heat the Philadel. phia 76ers 108-100 on Monday night to move a step closer to se curing the home-court advantage throughout the conference play-

Miami has won six straight the last four in a five-day stretch, and by an aver-

NRA roundup

16.3 points — and 10 in a row at home "It doesn't feel easy, I'll tell you that,

age margin of

Wade said. "Right now, we're all playing together. Everyone's touching the ball. Everyone's happy playing with each other and if it looks easy, it's because of

With 20 regular-season games left, the Heat have an eight-game lead over Detroit in the conference and are 11 games in front of Washington in the Southeast Divi-

pretty impressive "It's stretch," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I was pretty happy with the way we played. We're playing more consistently, and more maturely, and playing the game at a high level.

The first half was Miami's highest level of the season. The Heat set season bests with 63 points on 68.6 percent shooting in the half, and kept rolling in the second. O'Neal had 15 points and Wade 11 in the third period to help Miami push its lead to 22 points

"We cannot win if we play de-fense like that," said Allen Iver-son, who had 27 points for Philadelphia. "No way, no way we win this game with defense like that. Tonight they were hitting every thing, even when we were chal-lenging. We just couldn't stop them

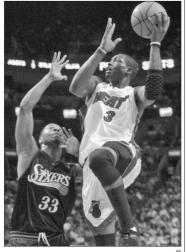
Wade made 18 free throws to set a franchise record; he got to the line 23 times. Shandon Anderson added 13 points, and Udonis Haslem had a 12-point, 10-rebound night for Miami (46-16), 30 games over .500 for the first time since April 1998.

Samuel Dalembert added 21 points for the 76ers, who got only 10 points in 26 minutes from Chris Webber.

"We clearly didn't have what it takes to win tonight against a quality team," said Philadelphia coach Jim O'Brien, whose club fell a half-game behind Indiana in the chase for the East's eighth and final playoff spot.

Philadelphia outscored Miami 29-17 in the fourth quarter, holding the Heat to 30.8 percent shooting, outrebounding them 10-8 and forcing four turnovers. But by then, the Heat's struggles were irrelevant — and the team gets a well-deserved break from practice on Tuesday.

"I'm sleeping until noon, then getting up, having lunch and tak-



Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots over Philadelphia's Willie Green (33) in the fourth quarter of Miami's victory. Wade scored 32 points.

ing a nap," Van Gundy said. O'Neal made Miami's first four shots of the second half, all from close range, to push Miami's mar-gin to 18 at 73-55. The lead got up to 79-59 with 6:51 left, before Dalembert keyed a 7-0 run.

He scored to start the burst then blocked O'Neal's shot Shaq's first miss in nine tries setting up a three-pointer from Kyle Korver. And when Korver scored on the next trip, Philadelphia was within 79-66

But Miami put the game away with an 11-3 run over a 2½-minute stretch. O'Neal scored the first five points, Wade followed with consecutive baskets, and O'Neal finished the burst by catching a three-quarter-court pass from Damon Jones and throwing down a monster dunk.

"We just have to worry about what we're supposed to worry about and keep beating the teams we're supposed to beat," O'Neal

"Keep winning at home, and keep staying above .500 on the road. If we do those things, then by that formula itself things will work out

Mavericks 113, Raptors 105: Marquis Daniels had a sea-son-high 32 points and Jason Terry added 23 to help Dallas win at home without Dirk Nowitzki.

Nowitzki missed his second straight game because of a bruised left knee, and Dallas also

played without the injured Michael Finley, Erick Dampier and Jerry Stackhouse.

Josh Howard added 22 points nd eight rebounds, and Keith Van Horn, subbing for Nowitzki, had 19 points. Morris Peterson led Toronto with 23 points.

Nuggets 111. Trail Blazers 98: Carmelo Anthony had 23 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and Denver won its seventh straight game, the Nuggets' longest streak in 16

Denver is 14-4 under coach George Karl, has won eight straight home games and has made up 61/2 games on the Los Angeles Lakers in a little more than a month to tie for eighth in the West, Damon Stoudamire led Portland with 24 points.

Bulls 90, Bucks 85: Kirk Hinrich scored 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and Chicago held off visiting Milwaukee for its 30th victory, tying the Bulls' most in a season since they won their sixth championship in 1997-98. Michael Redd led Milwaukee

Grizzlies 105, Clippers 102: At Los Angeles, Lorenzen Wright scored 23 points, Brian Cardinal had 20 and Memphis nearly blew a 13-point lead in the final 2:17 before beating Los Angeles for its fourth straight victory. Corey Maggette had 37 points for the Clippers.

## Bruised shin to sideline Magic's Hill for 2 games

CLEVELAND Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill will miss the next two games because of a bruised left shin, including Tuesday night's matchup with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Hill, who was kicked a week ago in a win against Sacramento, also will be out for Wednesday night's game at Toronto

Hill missed a game in December with a bruised right shin. Magic coach Johnny Davis said this latest injury is not related to the numerous left ankle problems that sidelined Hill for all but 47 games the previous four seasons. "With anyone else, you would

### just tape it up a little tighter and go," Davis said. "With Grant, we're just being cautious. You don't want him favoring it, which could throw him out of balance and potentially cause a problem.

The Kings also will be short-handed Tuesday night. Sacramento could be down to nine players against Memphis, with center Brad Miller, forward Kenny Thomas and guard Cuttino Mobley expected to be out of

the lineup. Miller is almost certain to miss his fifth straight game with a bruised calf. Kings coach Rick Adelman said Monday, while Mobley will miss his second game because of a strained lower

### **NBA** scoreboard

## Fastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
oston	31	29	.517	-			
hiladelphia	29	31	.483	2			
lew Jersev	26		.433	5			
lew York	25	34	.424	51/2			
oronto	25		.417	6			
Southeast Division							
1iami	46	16	.742	-			
Vashington		25	.569	11			
Irlando	31	27	.534	13			
harlotte	12	45	.211	311/2			
itlanta		48	.172	34			
Central Division							
etroit	36	22	.621	-			
leveland	31	27	.534	5			

#### Western Conference

Southwes					N	
	w	L	Pct	GB		
San Antonio	46	13	.780	-	Т	
Dallas	39	20	.661	7	7-1	
Houston	34	25	.576	12	Als	
Memphis	34	25	.576	12	6-1	
New Orleans		46	.220	33	To	
Northwest Division						
Seattle	41	17	.707	_	10-	
Denver	31	29	.517	11	6-6	
Minnesota	30	30	.500	12	Ha	
Portland	22	36	.379	19	46-	
Utah	20	39	.339	211/2		
Pacific Division						
Phoenix	46	14	.767	_	Ī	
Sacramento	37	24	.607	91/5	Ma	
L.A. Lakers	30	28	.517	15	0-2	
L.A. Clippers	26		.433	20	Ter	
Golden State		41	.305	271/5	Ou	
Monday	's nar	nac			Da	
Miami 108, Philadelphia 100						
Chicago OO Milwaykoo SE						

Chicago 90, Milwaukee 85
Dallas 113, Toronto 105
Denver 111, Portland 98
Memphis 105, LA. Clippers 10
Tuesday's game:
Orlando at Cleveland
Golden State at Philadelphia
Washington at New York
Atlanta at Milwaukee
New Jersey at San Antonio
Indiana at Utah
Houston at Seattle Indiana at Utah Houston at Seattle Memphis at Sacramento L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers Wednesday's ga Orlando at Toronto

Atlanta at Bosto Attanta at Boston Golden State at Detroit New Jersey at New Orleans San Antonio at Phoenix Chicago at Portland Thursday's games Minnesota at Miami L.A. Lakers at Dallas

#### Monday Heat 108, 76ers 100

Heat 108, 76ers 100
PHIADELPHA : Korver 3-1-18, Webber
4-13 1-2, 10, Dalembert 6-14-5-6-21, Nerson
6-13 1-2, 10, Dalembert 6-14-5-6-21, Nerson
6-13 1-2, 10, Dalembert 6-14-5-21, Nerson
10-10-00, Salmons 1-2, 0-3, Green 4-8-3-31, University 6-10-00, Salmons 1-2, 0-3, Green 4-8-3-31, University 6-10-00, Salmons 1-10-00, Green 4-8-3-31, University 6-10-00, Salmons 1-10-00, Salmons

Miamie 20 int Goals—Pilitad 23 32 28 17—180 int Goals—Pilitad 21 int Goals—Pilitad 27 int Goals—Pilitad 27 int Goals—Pilitad 27 int Goals—11 int Goals—12 int Goals—12 int Goals—13 int Goa

### Bulls 90, Bucks 85

MILWAUKE - J-Simit 2-8-5-8, Mason 6-9 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-0 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-10 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-10 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 8 cottl 0-6 0-8, Victor 3-12-8, Perg-6-9-0-7 & S. 8 cottl 0-6 0-8, Victor 3-12-8, Perg-6-9-0-7 & S. 9 6, Curry 6-11-4 16, Hirinft 6-16-5-17, Duhon 4-8, 2-1 II, Platforwis 1-2-2-0-5, Chan-10-18, Curry 6-11-4, Platforwis 1-2-2-6, Chan-10-18, Perg-6-18, Perg-6

Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 4-11 (Strick-land 2-3, Kuko 1-3, M Williams 1-3, Redd 0-2, Chicago 6-16 (Duhon 3-5, Piatkowski 1-1, No-cloni 1-2, Hirrich 1-4, Gordon 0-4, Fouled Out-None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 44 (J.Smith 12), Chicago 50 (Nocloni 8). Assists—Milwau-kee 24 (M.Williams 8), Chicago 52 (Duhon 10). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 21, Chicago 23. Tech-nicals—Milwaukee coach Porter, Chicago coach Solies. A 20042 (21,711).

Dallas 32 25 27 29 –11: hree-Point Goals—Toronto 4-13 (Rose 2-5 arshall 1-1, Alston 1-4, Peterson 0-1, Bonnee P.), Dallas 4-15 (Van Hom 2-3, Howard 1-1 rry 1-7, Armstrong 0-1, Harris 0-3, Fouler tonone, Rebounds—Toronto 43 (Bosh 8) llas 44 (Henderson 11), Assists—Toronto Alston 7), Dallas 17 (Terry 6). Total Fo onto 20, Dallas 15, A-19,509 (19,200).

### Nuggets 111, Trail Blazers 98

## **Falcons still flying high**

Posting its best-ever record cost Air Force its coach, but new guy Chris Mooney has things under control

BY RANDY HOLTZ Rocky Mountain News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. This is wrong, all wrong.

College basketball coaches are supposed to be old, crotchety guys, men sporting faces creased with years of worry, edgy men with nervous systems ravaged by the torments of knowing their professional fate is decided by unpredictable voungsters who barely need to shave



Picture Bob Knight, Jim Cal-Gene houn. Keady, tortured souls all. Chris Moon-

ey does not fit the mold, not even a little bit. He is 32 and looks younger. He is pleasant. He smiles a lot. The requisite intensity is there, vet it is all inside, not on his sleeve for all

But there are different ways to skin this college hoops cat, which Mooney has proved during an Air Force Academy season that further has established the Falcons as one of the feel-good turnaround stories in the sport.

When Mooney took over at Air Force for one of his longtime mentors, promoted from an assistant's iob after the departure of Joe Scott to their shared alma mater of Princeton after last season's worst-to-first transformation, the decision was a no-brainer

Same system, same theories many of the same players. Still, there was no guarantee Mooney would not drop the ball. As a major-college coach, he was as untested as they come, all youth and ambition

He has not dropped the ball. He has carried it to the second-finest season in Air Force history, guiding the Falcons to an 18-11 record and the No. 3 seed in the Moun tain West Conference tournament beginning Thursday in Denver.

He has done it with the same

441 knew when he was playing for us at Princeton that Chris would be a coach somedau. He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win. 77

> Joe Scott Former Air Force coach

kind of attention to detail, the same kind of intelligence and precision that allowed Scott to turn a hopelessly overmatched program into a conference champion and NCAA tournament participant.

Mooney has done it with none of the over-the-top sideline theatrics of Scott, with none of the fiery-eyed, for-all-to-see passion that marked the tenure of his friend and former boss.

If Scott is a Type A personality, Mooney is a Type Z. But there is no arguing with the results.

"First and foremost, he's a natural leader, a guy people want to follow," said A.J. Kuhle, a senior starter on last season's 22-7 team and now a graduate assistant. "It's his overall attitude and approach, the way he carries himself. It's his knowledge, his enthusiasm and his energy

"He hasn't changed at all from the past few years, except now he's the guy with the final say.' Mooney performed this coaching gig before, but not at the

NCAA Division I level. He began at Lansdale Catholic High School in his native Philadelphia, then moved to Beaver College, a small-schools program in Pennsylvania. Then Scott got the Air Force job and brought Mooney

Until this season, Mooney was the behind-the-scenes guy, the enabler, the one keeping time behind the drums as Scott played front man. He watched and learned as Scott led. Now Mooney

To Scott, whose first Princeton team has struggled with a 15-12 record and also-ran status in the Ivy League, Mooney's promotion was an easy decision.

"I knew when he was playing for us at Princeton (when Scott was an assistant to Pete Carril and Bill Carmody) that Chris would be a coach someday," Scott said. "He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win. He understood the plan.

Now it is Mooney's job to get others to understand the plan. His methods of persuasion might be gentler than those of the extroverted Scott, but they work just the same.

"There were a lot of things involved in the transition," Mooney said. "Last season was such a magical season that when it was over, everybody was flying so high. It was like, 'Hey, everything's great.'

"And then Joe left and people were wondering where we were headed. I thought it was important to get to work right away on the players' mind-sets. I had to know ere they were with all this.

"So on the afternoon of the morning press conference (announcing his promotion), we had individual workouts. I talked to every player individually. I wanted to make the transition as seamless as possible.

It was not all sunshine, flowers and chirping birds. Faced with the most challenging nonconference schedule in school history -Scott made stepping up the schedule a top priority - Air Force



r Force's Tim Anderson draws a charging foul from Wyoming's Jerry Webb a 61-56 victory last Saturday, Air Force's 18th of the season.

opened 6-5. When the Falcons lost 73-63 at Iowa on Dec. 28. their third consecutive setback, folks began wondering if Mooney's promotion was the right

The young coach didn't panic, the younger players became more comfortable in the system and the veterans ratcheted un their leadership.

thing after all.

Since then, the Falcons have one 12-6. Their only Mountain West losses have come to conference champion Utah (twice) and on the road against Wyoming, New Mexico and UNLV. The Falcons need to win the

conference tournament to get a return trip to the NCAA tournament berth. The way they are playing,

it is not outside the realm of possibility. If they cannot pull it off. they likely are headed to the NIT

The NIT is not to be confused with the NCAAs, but through three decad0es of Air Force basketball misery, any sort of postseason appearance would have been grounds for a parade.

"Nothing has come easy for us," said senior guard Tim Keller. one of three returning starters. "There aren't a lot of teams willing to do what we do. Every night's been a battle.

"But coach Mooney has been there with us all along, making us better. I think he's done an unbelievable job in a very difficult situation. Every guy on this team has the utmost respect for him.

## No longer unanimous, Illinois still No. 1

By JIM O'CONNELL The Associated Press

Illinois' first loss of the season wasn't enough to knock the Illini out of the top spot in the AP poll.

Illinois was on top of The Associated Press' college basketball poll on Monday for the 14th straight week, but for the first time in five weeks the Illini were not a unanimous selection, receiving 48 first-place votes and 1,725 points from the national media

panel

Sunday's 65-64 loss to Ohio State ended any hopes of a per-fect season for Illinois (29-1), which was trying to become the first team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss since UNLV in 1991.

## North Carolina remains in second; Wake Forest jumps a spot to third

needed a game-closing 11-0 run to beat Duke 75-73 on Sunday. staved No. 2 for the third straight week and fifth of the last six. The Tar Heels had the other 22 votes for No. 1 and 1,701 points.

Wake Forest (26-4), which needed a buzzer-beater by Chris Paul to get past North Carolina State 55-53 on Sunday night, moved up one spot to No. 3.

Kentucky (23-4), which lost 53-52 to Florida on Sunday, dropped one place to fourth.

The top four teams went 2-2 on

North Carolina (26-3), which Sunday with the games decided by a total of six points. Duke, which beat Miami in its

other game last week, moved up one place to No. 5, while Louisville, which won the Conference USA regular-season champion-ship, moved up three spots to a season-high sixth.

Boston College, which lost to Pittsburgh at home by 22 points last week, dropped two spots to seventh and was followed by Arizona, Kansas and Oklahoma

Arizona's No. 8 ranking was its

sas, which has lost of four of six. fell to its season low at No. 9

Gonzaga moved up one spot to match its highest ranking of the season at No. 11. The Bulldogs were followed by Connecticut, Michigan State, Washington, Michigan State, Washington Utah, Syracuse, Oklahoma, Pacific, Villanova and Alabama. The last five ranked teams were Cin-cinnati, Pittsburgh, Wisconsin, Nevada and Charlotte.

Charlotte (21-6) lost to Louisville and South Florida last week and the 49ers' drop from 18th to No. 25 was the biggest of the

This was the third straight week that the same 25 teams were ranked

The final poll will be released

#### AP Top 25 he top 25 teams in The Associated

2. North Carólina 3. Wake Forest 4. Kentucky 5. Duke 6. Louisville 7. Boston College 8. Arizona 9. Kansas 1,350 9 1,286 5 1,192 11 1,134 7 1,067 8 1,054 12 1,021 15 919 14 895 10 697 16 648 13 630 20 583 17 552 19 24-3 25-5 22-5 21-6 24-4 21-6 22-5 24-5 24-6 23-6 25-2 21-6 9. Kansas 10. Oklahoma St. 11. Gonzaga 12. Connecticut 13. Michigan St. 14. Washington 15. Utah 25. Charlotte 24:5 149 25
Others receiving votes 21:6 112 18
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## Despite its rank, BC feels snubbed Langford might miss

## AD calls Big East 'petty' for giving trophy to UConn

BY JIMMY GOLEN The Associated Press

BOSTON 1 Skinner has what other coaches envy: A 24-3 record, two all-Big East players on the roster and an us-against-them snub to motivate his team in the conference tournament

If only he were interested. "If that's what's going to motivate you, then

you shouldn't be playing," Skinner said of the Big East's failure to schlep a trophy to the team's regular-season finale at Rutgers. "You've got to bring your own motivation

Boston College is leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, a decision that created no shortage of bad feel ings among fans, players and officials of the iilted league.

But dealings remained essentially cordial until BC athletic director Gene DeFilippo told reporters on Sunday the league was "petty" for giving regular-season co-champion Connecti cut - but not BC - a trophy after its finale.

"Our players and coaches had absolutely nothing to do with Boston College's decision to go to the Atlantic Coast Conference," DeFilippo said. "If the Big East has problems with me, let them take it out on me

Big East officials denied that they were out to get Boston College, noting that they were only in Storrs, Conn., to honor UConn's Jim Calhoun and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who each picked up his 700th victory. UConn officials asked them to bring the trophy in case the Huskies won.

"We have never presented a trophy at an away venue," Big East spokesman John Paquette said Monday.

Meanwhile, DeFilippo has gotten over the slight - or at least decided to accept it. He declined requests for comment on Monday.

There was some disappointment about the trophy situation, but today the mood at BC is all about hanniness" snokesman Chris Cameron said. "We're Big East champions with a No. 1 seed in the tournament and we're ranked seventh in the country. So life is good at Boston College."

Nothing motivates coaches and athletes more than disrespect — even Bill Belichick felt the need to play the card while the Patriots were on their way to a third Super Bowl victory in four years



Connecticut's Antonio Kellogg, left and Denham Brown, right, walk off the court with the Big East trophy after defeating Syracuse 88-70 on Saturday. Boston College, which is leaving for the ACC after this year, wasn't awarded a trophy after earning a share of the title later Saturday. 44 We're Bia East

champions with a

No. 1 seed in the

tournament, and

we're ranked seventh

in the country.

So life is good

at Boston College. 77

**Chris Cameron** 

BC snokesman

"Fuel to the fire," said Craig Smith, one of two BC players selected to the all-Big East team on Mon-

College scheduled to leave on Tuesday for New York, where they'll get their trophy at a banquet. The tournament starts Wednesday, with BC getting a bye until Thursday as a No. 1 seed: the Eagles will play West Virginia

vates us," Jared Dudley, the other all-Big East selecerybody's against us

'We know they don't want us to win the

"It bothers us and motition, said of the trophy flap. "We do think evchampionship in our last year, but that's what we're going to do."

Skinner said he understands the rule about trophy presentations at away es, and he thinks the controversy could have been avoided if someone

had told BC beforehand. But he'll take a pass on

using it to fire up his team. "That's not the most important thing," he said. "I'd like to believe that just the fact that you're playing for the Big East championship is enough motivation."

And another trophy will be presented on Saturday night.

"They can't avoid that one," Skinner said.

the area.

## tournament

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Kansas guard Keith Langford, the Javhawks' second-leading scorer this season, was on crutches Monday and might miss this weekend's Big 12 tournament, coach Bill Self said Monday.

The injury to Langford's left ankle, which he hurt Sunday in the Jayhawks' loss to Missouri, is not as severe as first thought, Self said. But the loss dropped Kansas to No. 9 in the latest AP poll and might have cost the Jayhawks a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"We picked a bad time yesterday when Keith went out basically to have guys not play well." Self said on the Big 12 coaches' weekly conference call with reporters. "We need for somebody to step up and be players like they

Langford, a senior who averages more than 15 points, had already scored five when he iniured his left ankle three minutes into the game. The Jayhawks went on to lose 72-68 and drop into a first-place tie for the regular-season title with Oklahoma.

Missouri's upset victory kept Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson tossing and turning all night with excitement. Tied with Kansas at 12-4, the Sooners captured a share of the conference title, their first since 1989. But because of their regular-season win over the Javhawks, they are the top seed in the Big 12 tournament.

## College scoreboard

AII-ACC

J.J. Redick, Dute: Chris Paul, Wake Forest:
Sean May, Note: Chris Paul, Wake Forest:
Sean May, Note: Shelden Williams,
Duke; Raymond Felton, North Carolina.
Second Team
Guillermo Diaz, Miami; Julius Hodge, N.C.
State; Eric Williams, Wake Forest; Jarett
Jack, Georgia Tech; Justin Gray, Wake Forest.

Third Team

Rashad McCants, North Carolina; Sharrod
Ford, Clemson; Nik Caner-Medley, Maryland;
Daniel Ewing, Duke; Jawad Williams, North
Carolina

#### All-Big 12

First team
Wayne Simien, Kansas; Joey Graham, Oklahoma State; John Lucas, Oklahoma States Ronald Ross, Texas Tech; Antoine Wright, Texas A&M.

Texas A&M. Second team
Taj Gray, Oklahoma: Curtis Stinson, Iowa
Stey, Kansas State, Kensas, Jeremlah Massey, Kansas State, Kehn Langford, Kansas,
Aaron Bruce, Baylor; Daniel Gibson, Texas;
Linas Kleiza, Missouri; Kevin Bookout, Oklahoma; Brad Buckman, Texas, Jr.

## **All-Big East**

All-Big East
Hakim Warrick, First tame, Ryan Gomes,
Hakim Warrick, Boston College;
Jared Dudley, Boston College; Chevon Troutman, Pittsburgh, Gerry McNaman, Syracuse
Josh Boone, Connecticut: Charle Villanuea, Connecticut: Allan Ray, Villanova; Curris
Sumpter, Villanova; Carl Krauser, Pittsburgh.

Third team

Marcus Williams, Connecticut; Brandon Bowman, Georgetown; Chris Thomas, Notre Dame: Daryll Hill, St. John's: Randy Foye, Vili-

## All-Conference USA

First team
Travis Deiner, Marquette; Francisco Garcia, Louisville; Curtis Withers, Charlotte; Eddie Basden, Charlotte; Quemont Greer, De-Paul.

Paul. Second team
Jason Maxiell, Cincinnati: Andre Owens,
Houston: Terrence Leather, South Florida:
Donell Taylor Alabama-Birmingham; Rodney
Carney, Memphis\_

Carney, Memphis.

Third team

Eric Hicks, Cincinnati; Corey Santee, TCU;
Darius Washington Jr., Memphis; Drake Deiner, DePaul; Taquan Dean, Louisville.

## Wake suspends Paul for ACC tournament game

BY AARON BEARD The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Wake For-est star Chris Paul was suspended by the school for one game Monday for hitting North Carolina State's Julius Hodge in the groin during a game.

Paul, a sophomore point guard, will miss Friday's Atlantic Coast Conference tournament quarterfinal, the school said Monday. The Demon Deacons seeded second will play the winner of Thursday's Florida State-N.C. State game

Paul will be allowed to practice Tuesday and could return to the lineup Saturday if Wake Forest advances to the tournament semi-

Athletic director Ron Wellman said the school consulted ACC Commissioner John Swofford be fore announcing the suspension.

Paul apologized to Hodge, N.C. State, his teammates and Wake Forest's fans

"Sunday night was emotional for me for many reasons, and I let my emotions get the best of me," Paul said. "However, that is no excuse for my actions, and I fully accept and agree with my suspension Paul is averaging 14.9 points

and 6.6 assists and has been of the stars of the No. 3 Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 ACC)

Hodge was not expected to comment Monday on Paul's suspension, N.C. State spokeswoman Annabelle Vaughan said.

Paul's low blow with 12:48 left in the first half set the tone for the game in Raleigh, which ended when he hit a runner just before the buzzer for a 55-53 win.

On the replay, Paul was behind Hodge as the lanky senior was battling for position to rebound a missed three-pointer by Ilian Evtimov. After Cedric Simmons got rebound. Paul reached around from Hodge's right side and hit him in the groin. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the

year, crumpled to the court. With Hodge laving on the

ground, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK - and to vell toward Wake Forest's bench and the referees. After he left the court, Steve Hodge was escorted from

Once Julius Hodge got up, he yelled and gestured toward Paul and the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way to the bench.

After the game, Paul said the

two simply became entangled. "I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night.

When told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay



Creighton's Tyler McKinney hoists the Missouri Valley Champs sign after his team beat Southwest Missouri State in the tournament final

## Creighton is in; MVC awaits more berths

By R.B. FALLSTROM The Associated Press

ST LOUIS - Creighton leaned heavily on its bench, and the usual barrage of three-pointers to win its fifth Missouri Valley Conference tournament in seven

Reserves Dane Watts and Jimmy Motz combined for half of the school's 12 three-pointers. and the Bluejays pulled away late for a 75-57 victory over South-west Missouri State in the championship game Monday night. "Motz and Watts really deliv-

ered for us," coach Dana Altman said, "It's an incredible feeling," Motz was 4-for-7

three-point range and scored 12 for Creighton (23-10), which lost twice in the regular season to Southwest Missouri. was 2-for-4 three-point range and had 14 points

"I wasn't scared," Watts said. "I had to step up for my teammates.

Together, they helped Creightwhich averages three-pointers, overcome overall 43 percent shooting and an off game from leading scorer Nate Funk to earn a sixth trip in seven seasons to the NCAA tournament Johnny Mathies also had 14 points for the winners.

"Just providing the spark, I guess, has been kind of my role all year," Motz said. "The main thing is 10 guys found a way to get it done in three days, and we can relax this week and find out where we're going to be playing."

Deke Thompson had 14 points and Anthony Shavies 10 for Southwest Missouri (18-12), which also lost the tournament championship game last year and was shut out of the postseason. Southwest Missouri has been in the title game five times in the last eight seasons, but hasn't won since

Coach Barry Hinson said his team will get an NIT bid this season

"I'm actually looking forward to more basketball this season forward Tamarr Maclin said. "I mean, postseason is postseason.

Conference commissioner Doug Elgin was optimistic the Valley would receive three NCAA bids for the first time since 1999 with regular-season champion Southern Illinois, Wichita State and Northern Iowa also in the running. The Valley is ranked eighth in the RPI.

Southwest Missouri upset Southern Illinois in the semifinals, rallying from a 23-point second-half deficit.

"I feel pretty good about three teams," Elgin said. "This has been a groundbreaking year for us. I even think four teams is possible. The basketball community should respect our league." Creighton doesn't have to

worry about any of that.

"Well, it'll definitely make the week go better," Altman said. "It's definitely a relief."

Creighton has a season total of 285 three-pointers, second most Valley history, and was 12-for-25 in the title game. That helped the Blueiavs end a four-game losing streak against the Bears despite only eight points from Funk, 10 below his average, on 3-for-12 shooting.

"He made a lot of opportunities for his teammates because they naid so much attention to him but he didn't shoot it good," Altman said. "We were very fortunate that Jimmy picked up the three-point shooting, and Dane and other guys stepped up.'

The game seemed set for a tense finish when Maclin made a three-point play with 7:24 to go to cut Southwest Missouri's deficit to 52-50. But consecutive three-pointers by Tyler McKinney and Motz only 53 seconds apart put Creighton ahead 60-50 with four minutes left. 'You're like 'Wow!' " Hinson

"We just couldn't stop the bleeding. I would have liked for the ending chapter of this deal to he different.

# Loughton takes over in OT, VALLEY leads Monarchs to NCAAs

BY HANK KURZ JR. The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. - Old Dominion wanted to take the "if" out of its chances for making the NCAA tournament. Alex Loughton made it happen.

The Colonial Athletic Association player of the year took control of the game when the Monarchs needed him to Monday night, leading Old Dominion to a 73-66 victory against Virginia Commonwealth in overtime of the conference championship, and automatically into the field of 65.

The 6-foot-9 forward from Australia scored six of his 28 points in overtime, and the top-seeded Monarchs were clutch in the stretch, making their final 12 free throws to withstand the Rams' last-gasp

"I thought tonight was my night, and I was going to sort of outsmart and out-tough the opposition Loughton said after making 12 of 19 shots and grabbing 11 rebounds. "I really thought I found my niche

The Monarchs (28-5) might have been able to lose and still get in, but didn't relish waiting around until Selection Sunday to find out.

"We wanted to take care of our business our selves," said guard Drew Williamson, who played 91 minutes in the tournament without a turnover But it was Loughton, most of all, who made it so.

He scored on a drive with 52 seconds left in regulation, was fouled and made the tying free throw, Old Dominion's only points in the last five minutes of regulation. Then he took charge once overtime began.

"When it came time to make a play, it had to be made," he said.

Once in the extra session, Loughton scored inside, hit from about 17 feet and made two free throws, giving the Monarchs a 61-57 lead.

They sealed it at the line, making 12 straight shots to clinch their first NCAA berth since 1997 when VCU coach Jeff Capel's father took them there. "I just can't say enough about how strong of a will

our kids had to hang in there when everything was going right for the other team, and give ourselves a chance in regulation," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said. "We had no answer for Loughton," Capel said.

"He's a real, real good player — borderline great — and I don't throw that word around much."

The Rams (19-12) cut a 69-63 deficit in half on B.A. Walker's three-pointer with 13.9 seconds left, but Williamson hit a pair of free throws with 12 seconds to play and the Monarchs were finally tournament bound

Kiah Thomas scored 14 and Isaiah Hunter 13 for Old Dominion.

Jesse Pellot-Rosa led the Rams with 15 points. Walker had 14 and Nick George and Michael Doles each had 11, though both shot poorly.

Old Dominion's Alex Loughton celebrates after his MVP performance earned the Monarchs the Colonial Athletic Association title and an NCAA tournament bid.

'It was hard to get open looks, and when we did get them, we didn't knock them down," said Doles, a senior who came in averaging 15 points, but shot just 6-for-23 in the semifinals and championship.

The Rams, seeded second in the tournament, joined semifinals losers North Carolina-Wilmington and Hofstra in hoping for bids to the NIT.

'Hopefully we have at least one more game left,"

#### Men's automatic tournament bids

Central Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference Chattanooga, Southern Conference Creighton, Missouri Valley Conference Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference Gonzaga, West Coast Conference Niagara, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Old Dominion, Colonial Athletic Association Pennsylvania, Ivy League Winthrop, Big South Conference

## Mendez ends Niagara's 35-year wait BY JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

BUFFALO N.V. - Juan Mendez can finally breathe easy. The weight of Niagara's 34-year NCAA tournament drought is fi-

Starting with a massive dunk. the senior forward hit 10 of his first 12 shots and finished with 27 points in leading the Purple Eagles to an 81-59 win over Rider in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship on Monday night.

The win clinched Niagara's second NCAA tournament berth, and

first since 1970 when the Calvin Purple Murphy-led Eagles reached the second round. It also ended a string of frustrating close calls for a program that had lost two MAAC championship games in the last three years.

"It's huge," Mendez said. "Peonle have been waiting 35 years for this. And we finally got it

"We finally did it," added senior point guard Alvin Cruz.

It was extra special for Cruz to win with Mendez, teammates re-cruited together five years ago out of Florida Air Academy

"He was finishing everything.

he was being a leader," Cruz said. "He showed he was the best player in this conference tonight Lorenzo Miles had 16 points

while David Brooks scored 12 and added nine assists for Niaga-ra (20-9), which lost 62-61 to Manhattan in last year's final. Mendez added 13 rebounds to be named the tournament's MVP.

A largely partisan Purple Ea-gles crowd — Niagara is located about 20 minutes from Buffalo stormed the court as the final buzzer sounded. It took officials almost 15 minutes to clear the court to present Niagara with its After 34 years, the wait was

worth it.

## SPORTS



## **Gonzaga silences critics**

## Zags capture 6th WCC title in 7 seasons

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — This season started with talk that Gonzaga might no longer be the best team in the West Coast Conference.

It ended with the Zags on top for the sixth time in seven years. Adam Morrison scored 30 points and keyed a big second-half run to lead No. 11 Gonzaga to an 80-67 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night in a meeting of the conference's top two teams.

"Obviously being how young we are, over the summer we heard to tof whispers about us finishing second or fourth in this league, and it kind of put a little chip on our shoulders," said Morrison, the tournament MVP. "We read the Web sites. We heard what people were saying around town."

Romy Turiaf added 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Zags (25-4) earned a seventh straight NCAA tournament bid with their 12th consecutive victory. Gonzaga beat the second-seeded Gaels in the title game for the second straight season.

Daniel Kickert scored 27 points with a career-high seven three-pointers, and Paul Marigney had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Saint Mary's (25-8), which still has a chance to earn the school's first NCAA tournament bid since 1997.

"I would have to question the process if we're out," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We played in a good conference. We lost to a good team. I think we've done all we could do other than win tonight."

Morrison scored the Zags' first seven points after halftime, including a three-point play that started a 15-3 run. He threw his arm into the air to celebrate in the final minute and called for Gonzaga's many fans to rise to their feet.

"Adam's a big-time player,"
Zags coach Mark Few said. "The
bigger the moment, the better he
is. He is the reason we've run off
as many straight as we have. He's
defending and he's making everybody better on both ends."

Turiaf, who had four second-half blocks, responded with a big night after a poor performance in Gonzaga's 90-74 semifinal win over San Diego on Sunday.

Derek Raivio added 16 points to help Gonzaga snap the Gaels' five-game winning streak.



Gonzaga's Ronny Turiaf, left, is defended by Saint Mary's Frederic Adjiwanou in the second half of the West Coast Conference tournament championship game in Santa Clara, Calif., on Monday.

Of all the talented Gonzaga teams during the program's recent run, some say this could potentially be the best one.

After Kicken's three with 16:20 left pulled the Gaels to 41-40, Gonzaga scored 10 straight points and held the Gaels to one field goal in 10 minutes. Marigney scored five straight to pull Saint Mary's to 53-47 with 8:01 to go but the Gaels couldn't get closer.

The Bulldogs, who played in the tournament championship game for the eighth straight year, haven't lost since a 73-70 defeat at San Francisco on Jan. 20.

Gonzaga's red-clad fans chanted "This is our house!" before the game, a reminder that the Zags have won eight straight in the Leavey Center, Santa Clara's

home arena.

Most of the sellout crowd was in red actually, one of the colors for both teams.

Kickert made five first-half three-pointers. E.J. Rowland had six of his

E.J. Rowland had six of his nine assists in the first half, but Saint Mary's started the second half 2-for-13, missed four crucial free throws and was sloppy with the ball. The Gaels committed three shot-clock violations and a halfcourt violation.

"We still had some good looks in the second half," Rowland said. "They just didn't fall our way."

The WCC has sent two teams to the tournament only five times in the last 15 years, but the Gaels are hoping their 25 wins will be the difference for the selection committee next Sunday.



Old Dominion locks up NCAA berth with CAA tournament title

Page 31



Wade pushes Heat closer to home-court advantage

Page 28



Giambi responds to Sox fans' taunts with first homer of spring

Page 26